

Transcript of Proceedings - October 11, 2012
Volume 5

741
 Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
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BEFORE THE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

APPLICATION OF HIGHLAND WIND FARM,)
 LLC, FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC)
 CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO)
 CONSTRUCT A 102.5 MEGAWATT WIND)
 ELECTRIC GENERATION FACILITY AND)
 ASSOCIATED ELECTRIC FACILITIES, TO) Docket No.
 BE LOCATED IN THE TOWNS OF FOREST) 2535-CE-100
 AND CYLON, ST. CROIX COUNTY,)
 WISCONSIN)

EXAMINER MICHAEL E. NEWMARK, PRESIDING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

OCTOBER 11, 2012

VOLUME 5

PUBLIC SESSION

Reported By:

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 Gramann Reporting, Ltd.
 (414) 272-7878

HEARING HELD:

October 11, 2012

Emerald, Wisconsin

2:00 p.m.

TRANSCRIPT PAGES:

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EXHIBITS:

NONE

A P P E A R A N C E S

HIGHLAND WIND FARM, LLC, Michael Best &
Friedrich LLP, by MR. JOHN D. WILSON, P.O. Box 1806,
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1806.

FOREST VOICE, INC., Garvey McNeil & Associates,
S.C., by ANNE BENSKY, One Odana Court, Madison,
Wisconsin 53719.

TOWN OF FOREST, Reynolds & Associates, by GLENN
REYNOLDS, 407 East Main Street, Madison, Wisconsin
53703.

COMMISSIONERS:

Ellen Nowak (via telephone)
Eric Callisto (via telephone)
Phil Montgomery (via telephone)

OF THE COMMISSION STAFF

JOHN LORENCE, Office of General Counsel
James Lepinski
Scot Cullen
Michael John Jaeger

(FOR INDEX SEE BACK OF TRANSCRIPT.)

1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Welcome to the Highland
2 Farm Wind case docket, the public hearing.

3 (Discussion off the record.)

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Let's get started. And
5 I'm going to try to keep the list in order as I've
6 gotten them, so hopefully that's -- the people who
7 got here first will speak first. So all right. We
8 have Ken Bartz.

9 KENNETH BARTZ, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Just spell your name
11 for us and go ahead with your comments.

12 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

13 BY MR. BARTZ: Kenneth Bartz, B A R T Z.
14 I have a comment about the land values going down if
15 these go in; and, if so, who's responsible for the
16 reimbursement of the land price, of us losing
17 property values? Plus health issues, I do have some
18 health issues myself. And if it's found out later
19 on that this also causes more health issues to me or
20 what's my limitations on it, if I have to sell the
21 property, what will -- will I get the value out of
22 it that I need to get out of it to pay off my
23 mortgages and have something to live off of?

24 And also, just the sight of seeing them
25 around all the time. I don't want to see them. And

1 has there enough studies been done for the health
2 issues, for other things, for 20 years down the road
3 they say, oh, them shouldn't have been put in a
4 residential area because they're in a residential
5 area. I'm just more concerned about that. And, you
6 know, somebody putting them on their own property,
7 so be it. I don't have the right to say what they
8 can do on their own property. But if it's going to
9 affect me personally or my neighbors personally or
10 my dog -- what will happen if my dog can't stand the
11 noise? I'm a hunter. What happens if it chases all
12 the animals away?

13 I'm paying property taxes on this land.
14 The wind company, from what I understand, isn't
15 paying the taxes on the property. And if it's
16 the -- like, they're -- like, King Plant right now
17 is thinking about going to a temporary peak run
18 plant, and they're down in Bayport. What happens if
19 they say, well, we're going to shut the plant down
20 and move the plant because we don't need it because
21 the wind turbines will take care of this stuff? And
22 we're not paying taxes on that land. So what would
23 be the benefit to take and keep that plant running
24 if they don't need to get the power, if they get
25 enough wind turbines up and stuff like that?

1 So that's what I'm my concerned about.
2 Why should we have low income on the land value and
3 then take and have the property taxes on that be low
4 and they're getting -- making millions of dollars
5 off that land. If that was a store they would be
6 paying property taxes. If they were a business
7 other than a store, they're paying high property
8 taxes. But these windmills won't have to? That's
9 not right either.

10 So that's my concerns. And I appreciate
11 you having me up here and talk about it, and I
12 appreciate the opportunity. Thank you.

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Well, thanks for
14 coming.

15 (Witness excused.)

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Let's go off the record
17 for a minute.

18 (Discussion off the record.)

19 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Let's call the next
20 witness. Matthew Radintz. Am I saying that right?

21 MR. RADINTZ: Close enough.

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I'm a notoriously bad
23 pronouncer.

24 MATTHEW RADINTZ, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

25 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

1 BY MR. RADINTZ: I prepared a statement
2 that I would like to read.

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Let me just warn, when
4 people read, they read -- they tend to get fast.

5 MR. RADINTZ: Don't worry, I'll --

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Just so you
7 know.

8 MR. RADINTZ: I'll take my time. First of
9 all, I would like to say thank you to the Public
10 Service Commission for allowing my statements today.
11 My name is Matthew Radintz, I'm a resident of Forest
12 Township and have lived here since October of 2009.
13 My wife, Angie, was born and raised on her family
14 small dairy farm which still resides here in Forest.

15 When we were looking for a parcel to build
16 our home and raise our growing family, my wife and I
17 were delighted when we found a beautiful 40-acre
18 piece of land that was up for auction just over a
19 mile from where Angie grew up. We bought our
20 property in the spring of 2009 and built what we
21 consider our dream home.

22 Later that year, there were ramblings
23 throughout the community of a few families possibly
24 hosting a few windmills, not 41 500-foot industrial
25 turbines. But there were no details given to us or

1 our neighbors. All we knew is that there was a
2 tower that was erected to gather meteorological data
3 somewhere in the township.

4 It wasn't until the next summer of 2010
5 when a neighbor stopped by to introduce himself as
6 we were working in our yard and told me that he was
7 on his way to attend the town board meeting because
8 he wanted to find out if he was getting a wind
9 turbine. I decided to attend the meeting myself.
10 To my recollection, at this meeting, myself and my
11 son were the only attendees that were not either
12 board members, potential hosts or Emerging Energies
13 and its legal representation. Don't you think an
14 item that has drawn so much exposure and contention
15 would attract more than a handful of attendees?
16 This shows you the lack of community outreach by the
17 old town board and Emerging Energies. It was also
18 at that meeting that I learned that these windmills
19 were 500-foot-tall industrial turbines, not utility
20 turbines.

21 I requested a map of the potential turbine
22 locations from the then town chair. He delivered it
23 to me the following Sunday. I was dumfounded to
24 find out how large of a project this was going to be
25 and how close to my home these turbines were

1 proposed. Also, that the family that we purchased
2 the land through was set to host two turbines, yet
3 it wasn't disclosed anywhere when I purchased the
4 property.

5 I spent countless hours doing research on
6 the proposed turbines; and to my dismay, nearly all
7 the projects sited in rural areas had numerous
8 reports of negative health and safety effects,
9 property value reduction, wildlife impacts,
10 et cetera, all related to irresponsible siting of
11 industrial wind turbines.

12 I was scared, upset and uncertain on what
13 to think. I started talking about my neighbors to
14 find out if they knew of this project; and to my
15 surprise nobody, knew. This resulted in a large
16 group of our community coming together and in
17 questioning what had occurred and if it was
18 justified or legal. And in our opinion it was not.

19 The community then went on to recall the
20 town board and fight to get our township back.
21 After the town board was recalled, I was appointed
22 to the Forest Township Plan Commission where I
23 currently serve. As a member of the plan
24 commission, I diligently reviewed numerous
25 documents, minutes and ordinances, including the

1 town's comprehensive plan.

2 The following are a few points that
3 solidify why an industrial wind turbine project is
4 not compatible with the Forest Township
5 Comprehensive Plan. The proposed project will
6 result in the town not reaching its growth
7 expectations as few people will want to relocate or
8 build in an area that's occupied by an industrial
9 wind project due to the property value uncertainty,
10 health and safety concerns, noise and visual
11 pollution. The project also is not well matched for
12 the comprehensive plan because the turbines are
13 scattered throughout the entire township. The
14 comprehensive plan states that any industrial
15 development should be located along the main
16 transportation corridors in the southern portion of
17 the town or in the hamlet of Forest. The main goal
18 of the comprehensive plan is to preserve the town's
19 rural character and visual landscape. This cannot
20 be achieved with 41 500-foot industrial wind
21 turbines scattered throughout the landscape.

22 Although the comprehensive plan states its
23 openness to alternative energy sources, such as wind
24 energy, I highly doubt the majority of the
25 respondents to the comprehensive plan survey knew of

1 the scale that accompanies this project; and even if
2 it were the case, the comprehensive plan clearly
3 states that any such project will not detract from
4 the rural character of the town. The industrial
5 wind turbines would also be subject to additional
6 actions such as development of ordinances and should
7 be located in specific locations like I said prior,
8 in the hamlet of Forest in the southern corridor.

9 In closing, I ask that the Public Service
10 Commission please deny this application of the
11 Highland Wind Farm, LLC, for certificate of public
12 convenience and necessity. This projects does not
13 belong or fit in our rural life-style; and, as you
14 have heard in the technical hearings, this project
15 has a large number of possible negative consequences
16 to the health and public welfare of our community.
17 Thank you.

18 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thanks very much.

19 (Applause.)

20 (Witness excused.)

21 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I know we want to show
22 our appreciation for some commentators, but I'm
23 going to ask you to hold your applause because we do
24 have people who are here for the project, believe it
25 or not, and against the project; so I don't want to

1 intimidate anyone. I want to have everyone be able
2 to say their peace on the record. So just please
3 withhold your applause or boos.

4 (Discussion off the record.)

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Ma'am, I want to ask
6 you, you did file direct testimony in the case;
7 isn't that right?

8 MS. SALSEG: I did. I filed it regarding
9 the eagle situation.

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Yes.

11 MS. SALSEG: Based on the environmental
12 assessment information.

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Yes, okay.

14 MS. SALSEG: I am here today speaking as a
15 resident.

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Well, we usually
17 don't let someone who's in the party as a party, a
18 party witness, also comment in the public hearing,
19 part of the hearing. What I can do is I can -- you
20 have written comments, I can take those.

21 MS. SALSEG: I do and I could -- we have
22 some members of media here. And since I believe
23 this is my constitutional right to freedom of
24 speech, I can certainly give my statements to them.

25 MS. BENSKY: Can I make a comment? She

1 did very brief rebuttal testimony about some eagles
2 that she had seen. This is not going to be
3 duplicative at all; and I think given the spirit of
4 wanting to get full public conversation, I ask that
5 you allow her to read her comment.

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Let me see what we have
7 in the comments.

8 Okay. Well, let's have you read --

9 MS. SALSEG: Those were copies.

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: It's not repetitive as
11 far as the eagles are concerned. So let me swear
12 you in.

13 (Discussion off the record.)

14 BRENDA SALSEG, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

15 EXAMINER NEWMARK: State your name, and go
16 ahead.

17 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

18 MS. SALSEG: My name is a Brenda Salseg,
19 and I was born and raised mostly in the Town of
20 Forest. My husband and I moved back to my hometown
21 area in 1998 and built a new house on land that had
22 been in my family since the late 1880s. We moved
23 back to enjoy a quiet, peaceful life, to raise our
24 small son with rural views, and to assist my aging
25 parents who farmed all their lives.

1 When I first heard about windmills in the
2 Town of Forest, in my mind, I envisioned several of
3 these structures peeking over treetops placed here
4 and there in the township landscape. I expected
5 that a public hearing dedicated to the subject would
6 be forthcoming. Instead, a postcard arrived in the
7 mail just before Labor Day weekend of 2010, composed
8 by a hosting landowner who organized a trip to the
9 Shirley project. It stated the same turbines were
10 coming to Forest.

11 I almost threw that postcard away several
12 times as junk mail. Instead, over the course of
13 several days, I picked it up and read it again,
14 wondering if we had missed a public hearing. There
15 had been no formal notification of any kind. So I
16 searched Shirley Wind on the internet, and what I
17 found set me into a state of shock. Eight
18 500-foot-tall industrial scale wind turbines, 2.5
19 megawatts each. I had no such idea that huge
20 dominating structures of this type existed in the
21 State of Wisconsin.

22 Once I got over the shock of the size and
23 scope, I started reading about industrial wind
24 turbines and their effects on Wisconsin families.
25 Stories and articles also surfaced from people in

1 the eastern U.S., then Canada, Europe and Australia.
2 I felt ashamed about my former ignorance of
3 industrial wind turbines' impact on people's quality
4 of life. People are suffering.

5 I contacted a town supervisor and asked
6 how many turbines. He hemmed, hawed, and named some
7 potential landowners. I counted 13. He said the
8 deal was done, but do not worry, I would be paid for
9 living next to a turbine. I knew right then that
10 there is no amount of money that could be paid to
11 compensate for sleepless nights, fear of health
12 issues, and lost property value, our retirement
13 plan. No amount of money can pay for blotting out a
14 starlit night or the pleasure of an open bedroom
15 window as one falls asleep on a warm summer night.

16 In April of 2011, my husband and I
17 traveled to Glenmore, Wisconsin, to the Shirley
18 project, having heard of the Enz family who have
19 vacated their home and were and are living in an RV
20 because of health issues they began to suffer as
21 soon as that project went online. I wanted to be
22 certain the fight against Highland Wind Farm was
23 justified.

24 We decided to approach the experience with
25 an open mind. We had heard comments from others who

1 had stood under an industrial wind turbine and they
2 were able to carry on a conversation, apparently
3 unaffected with physical symptoms. Enough research
4 had convinced me, however, the practice of standing
5 under a wind turbine was a favorite wind industry
6 tactic, intended to convince potential hosting
7 landowners industrial wind turbines do no harm.

8 Within 45 minutes of visiting the Enz'
9 home, any doubt we had about health effects of
10 inappropriately placed industrial wind turbines was
11 gone. We both began to experience head pressure as
12 if a cold was coming on and ear pressure like one
13 feels when an airplane gains or loses altitude,
14 along with a sense of chest pressure and dizziness.
15 We felt an overwhelming feeling to flee the homes,
16 and so we left. It took a full hour for the
17 physical effects to dissipate.

18 From the Enz' home, we traveled down
19 through the Blue Sky Green Field project, Cedar
20 Hills and Forward Wind. As night came on, thousands
21 of red blinking lights filled the horizons of
22 beautiful Wisconsin landscape which were visible for
23 at least 20 miles. After spending the night in
24 Fond du Lac, we decided to drive through Blue Sky
25 Green Field in daylight one more time before heading

1 home. There we experienced shadow flicker as the
2 blades passed through the morning sunlight across
3 the roadway, once per second, flick, flick, flick,
4 flick, flick.

5 As a state and a country, renewable energy
6 is important. But in a free society, it cannot be
7 based on misguided ideology or mandates that
8 encourage and shelter opportunistic corporate greed.
9 We are people, not a project. And we do not deserve
10 to be treated no better than laboratory animals,
11 subjected to experimentation against our will.

12 I have spoken to and corresponded with
13 affected individuals around the world, as well as
14 leading professionals, physicians and scientists.
15 Two solid years of researching, reading the
16 testimonies of wind victims, as well as
17 peer-reviewed scientific evidence, point clearly to
18 the adverse health effects of low frequency,
19 infrasound, and electrical ground currents. We need
20 health studies conducted in wind projects before one
21 more so-called wind farm is constructed.

22 The people of this township have clearly
23 spoken, through the 2011 recall and general election
24 that removed an entire conflicted town board, that
25 wind energy in this size and scope is not wanted in

1 our community. Industrial wind is not free, clean
2 and green when it takes the property rights and
3 freedoms of nonparticipating landowners, takes their
4 tax dollars to fund it, and results in taking more
5 of their income for higher electrical rates,
6 pollutes their quality of life, and displaces
7 wildlife and ecosystems.

8 Commissioners Montgomery, Nowak and
9 Callisto, issuing a certificate of public
10 convenience and necessity is not in the public
11 interest. Everywhere in rural communities where
12 industrial wind energy systems have been
13 constructed, with setbacks too close and noise
14 limits too high, health issues and property
15 devaluation have followed. The pattern is clear.
16 Throughout the Town of Forest, the State of
17 Wisconsin, the United States of America, Canada,
18 Europe and Australian, we are all praying that the
19 three of you will make the right decision. The
20 world is watching and waiting. The only right thing
21 to do is to deny the CPNC (sic). It's time to pull
22 back the curtains.

23 Sincerely and respectfully submitted,
24 Brenda Salseg.

25 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you very much.

1 (Witness excused.)

2 (Discussion off the record.)

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: We'll call Teresa
4 Wilson.

5 TERESA WILSON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Give us your name, and
7 go ahead.

8 MS. WILSON: Teresa Wilson.

9 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

10 BY MS. WILSON: I also wrote mine. I'll
11 try to read slowly for everyone's sake.

12 After being refused in their own home
13 area, Emerging Energies located Forest Township
14 because it was unzoned. They offered a few
15 residents a tiny share of their expected profits in
16 return for the use of their land for a turbine
17 project. The town board then signed an agreement
18 with Emerging Energies. When other residents became
19 aware of that project, we were finally allowed to
20 express our opinions through a vote, for or against
21 recalling that town board.

22 We would have much preferred the
23 opportunity to vote on the subject of wind turbines
24 than on town board members who came to represent
25 turbines/no turbines. That recall election and a

1 following general election each turned out with
2 overwhelming results. The vast majority of Forest
3 residents do not want the turbines here.

4 One of my biggest concerns is the possibly
5 irreparable damage that this issue has caused here
6 between neighbors, families, church members, even
7 brothers. But for Emerging Energies, this is
8 strictly a financial matter. They're interested in
9 the green money, not the green energy. Their
10 Shirley Wind project was sold to a company in
11 Poughkeepsie, New York, before the blades even
12 turned. They took the money and ran.

13 Just because something is legal does not
14 make it right. Forest is not the right place for
15 this project. This is our home. Its people have
16 spoken. Emerging Energies, your Highland Wind Farm
17 is not welcome here.

18 To the Public Service Commission, my vote
19 is no, if I have a say. I'm a small landowner.
20 Thank you.

21 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thanks very much.

22 (Witness excused.)

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: We have, is it Allen
24 Wienke, am I getting that right?

25 I just want to let you know we have all

1 three Commissioners on the line. Finally we got
2 that right. They're having a little hard time
3 hearing across the table, so we're going to reorient
4 us and just put your chair over there.

5 ALLEN WARNER, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Give us your name, and
7 go ahead with your comment.

8 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

9 MR. WARNER: My name is Allen Warner, and
10 I'm 80 years old, and I lived in the Town of Forest
11 for 55 years. And I support the wind towers, for
12 one thing, clean energy. And I was thinking of the
13 future generation coming up. And that's all I got
14 to say.

15 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Can you spell your last
16 name for me because I got it really wrong.

17 MR. WARNER: Last name?

18 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Yeah.

19 MR. WARNER: W A R N E R.

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thanks. It's
21 Allen, right?

22 MR. WARNER: Right, Allen.

23 COMMISSIONER CALLISTO: Could we have the
24 witnesses identify, if possible, where they're
25 physically located or where they live in relation to

1 the wind turbines.

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Well,
3 Mr. Warner, I have you at 1892 County Road D in
4 Glenwood City; is that where you live?

5 MR. WARNER: 2728 County Road S.

6 FROM THE AUDIENCE: That's the wrong
7 Allen.

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: That's what it is.
9 Start again, give us your name and your address.

10 MR. WARNER: Allen Warner, and I live
11 at -- you want me to tell the whole thing?

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Just your address.

13 MR. WARNER: Oh, I live at 2728 County
14 Road S, Emerald.

15 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Great. Thank you very
16 much.

17 MR. WARNER: Is that it?

18 EXAMINER NEWMARK: That's it.

19 (Witness excused.)

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Who was I supposed to
21 call here?

22 ALLEN WIENKE, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Tell us your name for
24 the record.

25 MR. WIENKE: Allen Wienke, W I E N K E.

1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And where do you live,
2 sir?

3 MR. WIENKE: 1892 County Road D, Glenmore
4 City.

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Is there an approximate
6 location to a turbine or to this --

7 MR. WIENKE: Very definitely. They're in
8 the sections adjoining, so on, where we live.

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

10 MR. WIENKE: We live right in the Village
11 of Forest.

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. All right. Go
13 ahead.

14 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

15 BY MR. WIENKE: Allen Warner, I thought
16 you trumped my message because I thought I would be
17 the oldest one up here and now I'm not anymore. So
18 I've been here for -- this Forest Township has been
19 my residence for 75 years, and we have farmed here
20 and we're retired dairy farmer and now part-time
21 crop and beef farmer. So that's what we have been
22 doing.

23 I was on the commission to plan for this
24 windmill thing a few years back. And I looked at
25 the information and I thought this looks like it has

1 possibilities. And I thought we should take a real
2 good look at it and maybe it does have
3 possibilities. And I think the more that I looked
4 at it, the more I thought I don't know if this is --
5 if the negatives outweigh the positives. Towers,
6 noise; and you will hear all of this and have heard
7 all of these negative things, and I won't belabor
8 those that much.

9 But basically my objection is there will
10 be a handful that will benefit financially at the
11 expense of others. And what I mean by that is the
12 financial gain for those participants will be a few
13 in number, those that have to listen to the other
14 issues involved in it will be a greater number of
15 the residents. And that's basically my objection to
16 the wind program. I'll stop with that.

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thanks very much.

18 (Witness excused.)

19 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Todd Ostberg, O S T-
20 B E R G.

21 TODD OSTBERG, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Well, I have you at
23 9 -- 2953 210th Avenue, Emerald?

24 MR. OSTBERG: Correct.

25 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Any particular tower

1 location that's close to you or that you're
2 concerned about?

3 MR. OSTBERG: Probably the nearest one to
4 us would be just over a quarter mile, I'm going to
5 say maybe a third of a mile. But we will have them
6 in every direction on our landscape, so...

7 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

8 BY MR. OSTBERG: Good afternoon, my name
9 is Todd Ostberg. My wife and I moved to Forest
10 nearly seven and half years ago. Unlike many urban
11 communities, most if not all Forest residents live
12 here by choice. Our reasons for buying in Forest
13 included the dark nights, enjoying the stars of the
14 Milky Way, and at night silence, often so quiet you
15 can hear owls, deer moving in the woods behind our
16 home, and sometimes the train crossing Highway 128,
17 some four miles away, the ability to hunt on my own
18 land, and privacy.

19 Many of our neighbors moved here for the
20 same quality of life just described. Those that
21 have lived here their entire lives understand and
22 appreciate what we only discovered in 2005. I'm not
23 sure any of these would be preserved if this project
24 is allowed.

25 As a member of the Forest Township Plan

1 Commission for the past year and a half, I would
2 like to discuss and highlight a handful of items in
3 our comprehensive plan, a plan that was adopted by
4 our former town board on December 8th, 2009. Please
5 keep that date in mind, December 8th, 2009, as I
6 will refer to it later in my remarks.

7 Within the plan is a survey by Forest
8 residents that became the basis for the
9 comprehensive plan completed at a 58 percent
10 participation level. Many proponents of this
11 industrial wind farm project point to question
12 number 27 as a majority of residents supporting this
13 project. The question reads: The Town of Forest
14 should pursue the following energy alternatives as a
15 form of economic development: biofuels, solar
16 energy, wind energy, other.

17 While wind energy did get the most
18 positive results with 75 percent agreeing or
19 strongly agreeing, to take that to a 41 500-foot
20 industrial turbine project was clearly not what a
21 majority of the residents were envisioning. To
22 support this claim, we need to look no further than
23 the town's recall election in February 2011 and the
24 general election two months later in April 2011.

25 Former town supervisor Carl Cress said it

1 best in an interview with the New Richmond paper.
2 He stated, "Unfortunately, this election has become
3 a single-issue election." He was dead on.

4 The results of both elections removed the
5 former town board by a 60 to 40 percent with in
6 excess of 80 percent voter turnout and reinstated
7 the new board in the April election 60 percent/40
8 percent with an almost unbelievable voter turnout of
9 90 percent. Support for an industrial wind farm? I
10 think not.

11 Let's continue looking at the town
12 comprehensive plan. On page 13 under Section 2.3,
13 key issues, halfway down the page it states that 77
14 percent of respondents agree or strongly agree that
15 visual impacts of development are an important
16 consideration when evaluating a proposed
17 development. Most assuredly, this project would
18 have visual impact.

19 On page 23, Section 5.3, objective 2,
20 strategies, states that the town will work on the
21 development of a telecommunication ordinance. This
22 will include collocation, stealth technology, and
23 other techniques to minimize visual impacts. Once
24 again, concern over visual impact.

25 Page 28, Section 7.2, new businesses or

1 industry desired. The last sentence, and I quote,
2 "Overall, other than agriculture, forestry,
3 recreation, and cottage industry consistent with the
4 community's rural nature, no new large-scale
5 businesses or industry is desired in the Town of
6 Forest, unless it is located in a designated area,
7 in the hamlet of Forest, or along Highway 64 as
8 designated in the future land use map."

9 Page 40, Section 9.6, planned land use
10 map. Halfway through the first paragraph states,
11 "Hence, future development will follow the guidance
12 and performance standards and general location
13 provided in this comprehensive plan." As I have
14 quoted from the comprehensive plan, I believe it's
15 very clear what the vision of the residents is and
16 was. Industrial wind turbines by no means fit that
17 vision.

18 As I mentioned earlier, December 8, 2009,
19 is the adoption date of the comprehensive plan for
20 the Town of Forest. As there is no mention of an
21 industrial wind farm prior to this date, contracts
22 were signed by potential hosting landowners as well
23 as town negotiations ongoing with Emerging Energies.
24 Is it any wonder a majority of residents felt
25 deceived and betrayed?

1 As a member of the plan commission, I
2 understand the State of Wisconsin mandate for town
3 zoning to be guided and representative of the
4 comprehensive plan. The commission, by the way, is
5 currently working on that zoning ordinance. I can
6 only assume that omission to be intentional based on
7 the time frame involved. With regard to the August
8 2010 agreement between Emerging Energies and the
9 Town of Forest, what conclusion can be drawn other
10 than absolute greed overtaking moral obligation by
11 the former town board to serve their community and
12 neighbors.

13 I would strongly suggest that the PSC
14 right this wrong and have the courage to do what our
15 former town board failed to do. I would also
16 strongly request that the PSC not allow themselves
17 as a public commission to be putty in the hands of
18 these wind developers.

19 Before Tuesday's hearing in Madison, which
20 I attended, this was going to conclude my testimony.
21 However, after listening to Jay Mundinger of
22 Emerging Energies/Highland wind, LLC, I continue.
23 Mr. Mundinger testified that no former town board
24 members had contracts with Emerging Energy/Highland
25 Wind Farm while they were in office as town

1 officials. I have two problems with that testimony.
2 First, all maps generated by Emerging
3 Energy/Highland Wind Farm depicting turbine siting
4 locations indicated two turbines on the property
5 belonging to Roger Swanepoel. Roger was town chair
6 at the time and was until the recall election of
7 February 2011. Furthermore, Roger recused himself
8 from voting in August 2010 to approve or deny the
9 project based on conflict of interest. What
10 conflict of -- without a contract with Emerging
11 Energy/Highland Wind Farm, what conflict of interest
12 did Roger have? Simply a map indicating two
13 turbines on his property? Also very puzzling to me,
14 with Roger slated to get two wind turbines on his
15 property without a contract according to
16 Mr. Mundinger, how did Mr. Mundinger know there was
17 going to be a recall election in February of 2011
18 where Roger and other town board members would be
19 removed from office, thereby triggering a contract
20 between Roger and Emerging Energy/Highland Wind
21 Farm, making Mr. Mundinger's testimony therefore
22 truthful? Does this confuse anyone other than me?

23 As I don't understand Mr. Mundinger's
24 testimony, had there never been a recall election
25 and had Roger not lost the recall and subsequent

1 general election, the siting maps are incorrect as
2 Roger Swanepoel as town chair would not qualify for
3 any turbines because of a direct conflict of
4 interest. I would submit that this confusion could
5 be cleared up by Emerging Energy/Highland Wind Farm
6 producing signed contracts of all potential hosting
7 landowners and canceled checks to those potential
8 hosting landowners clearly showing the date of
9 execution. In fact, I would think the Commission
10 should demand it so that Mr. Mundinger's good name
11 could be reinstated. I would think that would be
12 Mr. Mundinger's desire as well.

13 Also, any testimony by Roger Swanepoel
14 with regard to this could help clear up that same
15 confusion. Along with my written testimony, I am
16 submitting to the docket the Town of Forest
17 comprehensive plan and executive summary.

18 While my testimony is based on pointing
19 out what the comprehensive plan directs me as a plan
20 commission member to abide by and the testimony of
21 Jay Mundinger, what is paramount to me is the
22 quality of my life, my potential health, my land
23 value and that of my neighbors. Do the right thing,
24 keep Forest as the rural farming community it is
25 today rather than an industrial wind turbine

1 wasteland tomorrow. Thank you for your attention.

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, sir. And
3 you mentioned the comprehensive plan.

4 MR. OSTBERG: I didn't bring it up with
5 me, and I apologize. I'll grab it.

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: You know, it's not a
7 problem. It is on the record currently and we do
8 have a copy.

9 MR. OSTBERG: I don't know if you have a
10 copy of the executive summary.

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Yes, we have the whole
12 plan and the --

13 MR. OSTBERG: Oh. Well, now you've got
14 two of them.

15 (Witness excused.)

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I'd like to call Carl
17 Cress.

18 CARL CRESS, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

19 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Please give your name
20 for the record.

21 MR. CRESS: My name is Carl Cress.

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And you're at 2007
23 280th Street, Emerald?

24 MR. CRESS: Yes.

25 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Any particular turbine

1 that you're concerned about or want to speak to --

2 MR. CRESS: No.

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: -- or location? Okay.
4 Go ahead.

5 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

6 BY MR. CRESS: My name is Carl Cress.
7 I've been a resident of Town of Forest for 66 years.
8 I was a Town of Forest board member for 24 years,
9 and I also served on the planning commission for
10 several years. As a former board member, I know
11 firsthand the financial needs of running a town.
12 And the wind farm developed in the Town of Forest
13 would give our town and county significant monetary
14 help for the next 30 years.

15 The demand for electricity in this country
16 continues to grow with the development of new
17 technologies. Wind energy will provide us with
18 clean, renewable electricity for years to come.
19 Thank you.

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thank you, sir.
21 (Witness excused.)

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Marilyn Benson.

23 MARILYN BENSON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Give us your name for
25 the record.

1 MS. BENSON: Marilyn Benson, 27 --

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: You're at -- oh, go
3 ahead.

4 MS. BENSON: 2754 State Road 64, Emerald,
5 Wisconsin.

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. I'll ask
7 you the same question. Any particular turbine
8 location you're concerned about?

9 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

10 BY MS. BENSON: Yep. My family have had
11 the farm a half mile east of here when I was six
12 months old and I lived in the area most of my life.
13 We will have, if this goes through, seven or eight
14 turbines surrounding our house with two of -- the
15 closest two a half mile away.

16 I've known most of these host families all
17 my life, and our kids have gone to school together.
18 It's hard to see our small town being ripped apart
19 over something that's proven to not be green or
20 efficient. It is based on the greed of Emerging
21 Energies and other wind turbine companies. It is
22 true -- if it was a truly efficient source of green
23 energy, they shouldn't have to take subsidies.

24 My dad's vision of the land across the
25 road, where the woods is, was to have it in the

1 family trust for the grandchildren and the great
2 grandchildren to hunt on and enjoy. But if there's
3 no animals around, what are you going to enjoy?
4 Some of the host families have stated that this is
5 their retirement fund. What about the non-host
6 families that will possibly lose value in their
7 homes, possibly suffer health issues that will make
8 them leave their homes, or have medical bills they
9 can't afford? What about our retirement?

10 Having worked for 30 years in the medical
11 field, I'm very concerned about some of the health
12 issues that these turbines have been causing in
13 other wind farms. I realize not everyone is going
14 to react to the noise, shadow flicker or stray
15 voltage. Just like not everybody gets as sick to
16 the flu as somebody else. Everybody's health issues
17 are different and their ability to handle them are
18 different. But even one person suffering the
19 effects from the wind turbine is not acceptable.

20 How do we allow this and what does the PSC
21 plan to do to help these people affected? How do
22 you assure us that if this goes through that
23 Emerging Energies will be held accountable, or the
24 next party they sell it to next week up after it's
25 up, or I should say next year after it's up, or

1 whenever. If this wind farm project is approved by
2 the PSC, what steps are you going to put in place to
3 ensure that the non-host families have some sort of
4 recourse to help if we become sick, if our property
5 value goes way down, or if we're unable to sell it?
6 Will they ensure that Emerging Energies, LLC, pays
7 us the difference in our property value or pays the
8 mortgage if we have to sell and are unable to sell
9 it and have to leave or -- our home because of
10 health issues? Will they make Emerging Energies,
11 LLC, have procedures in place with names and phone
12 numbers of who to call with the problems and make
13 sure the company is transparent? Also, when they
14 sell this wind farm, that the ball isn't dropped by
15 the new company?

16 It sounds like, from the testimony we
17 heard in Madison on Tuesday, that the people in the
18 other wind projects have nowhere or no one to turn
19 to. And once the project was sold, Emerging Energy,
20 LLC, said they don't know anything because they
21 don't own it anymore, so who cares. Who's
22 accountable?

23 I feel that more research needs to be done
24 before Wisconsin allows any more wind farms.
25 Research into health issues, wildlife issues, home

1 values, and the big one, is this really cost
2 efficient? Is this a good source of renewable
3 energy? Please do not make any more of us guinea
4 pigs of Emerging Energies, LLC's and other wind
5 companies' greed.

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you.

7 (Witness excused.)

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Dawn Cress.

9 DAWN CRESS, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: That's C R E S S. Tell
11 us where you live.

12 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

13 BY MS. CRESS: I live on 200 280th Street,
14 Emerald, Wisconsin. I'm directly in the middle of
15 the project. I have two acres, so I won't have a
16 turbine, but I will be able to look out and see
17 turbines all around me, and I have no fear of them.
18 And I've written a statement today.

19 As I said, my name is Dawn Cress. I have
20 been a resident of the Town of Forest, Wisconsin,
21 for 60 years. I would like to encourage you to look
22 to the future of clean, renewable energy that can be
23 produced right here in Wisconsin through our wind
24 resources. The proposed Highland Wind Farm here in
25 the Town of Forest, which was developed openly and

1 conscientiously by Emerging Energies, the former
2 town board, and the residents that took the time to
3 attend public meetings, gives our community and
4 county added revenue and job stimulus.

5 Wisconsin has no oil, coal or gas
6 deposits. But we do have adequate wind. Let's
7 harness that wind and be a part of the solution in
8 this country for more clean, renewable electricity.
9 Remember, Wisconsin motto is forward. Developing
10 wind energy will help move this state forward.
11 Thank you for your consideration.

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, ma'am.

13 (Witness excused.)

14 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. You have to help
15 me out with this one, Yvonne Fouks or -- let me just
16 spell it, F O U K S.

17 MS. FOUKS: Fouks.

18 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Sorry.

19 MS. FOUKS: That's okay. It's been messed
20 up before.

21 YVONNE FOUKS, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. And I have
23 you at 2738 210th Street, Deer Park?

24 MS. FOUKS: Avenue.

25 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Avenue. Okay. Sorry.

1 And how does that relate to the project?

2 MS. FOUKS: We are a host family.

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. All right. Go
4 ahead.

5 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

6 BY MS. FOUKS: My name is Yvonne Fouks. I
7 have lived in Forest Township for 62 years. Our
8 farm is now in its third generation in the Fouks
9 name. We have always tried to be good stewards of
10 the land, and developing wind energy on our farm is
11 one way of doing that. We need to free ourselves as
12 much as is possible from being dependent on foreign
13 oil and to free our country from being dependent on
14 a part of the world that is trying to destroy us and
15 our way of life.

16 Wind energy will give us clean, renewable
17 energy without the air pollution of coal and dangers
18 of nuclear energy. It will also benefit our town
19 and our county financially for the next 30 years.

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, ma'am.

21 MS. FOUKS: You're welcome.

22 (Witness excused.)

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Mark Jackelen.

24 MARK JACKELEN, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

25 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Could you spell your

1 name for the record for me.

2 MR. JACKELLEN: J A C K E L E N.

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And you say you're at
4 Section 36 in the township?

5 MR. JACKELLEN: Well, that's where the
6 majority of our land is.

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

8 MR. JACKELLEN: I don't live in Forest
9 anymore. I grew up here, but I moved away about a
10 hundred years ago, but our family still owns the
11 farm. My brothers have land all the way around
12 Glenwood and Forest.

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Any particular turbine
14 location you have a concern about?

15 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

16 BY MR. JACKELLEN: Yeah, actually, there is
17 one on Section 36. If that thing happens to tip
18 over, it's going to land right on our fence line,
19 it's that close. But anyway, I forget even what I
20 put down on there, but I'm going shoot from the hip
21 here and I hope I don't repeat anything that people
22 have talked about already.

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Do you want to see
24 this?

25 MR. JACKELLEN: Okay. I got it figured

1 out. I'll give you a quick summary of my history
2 with this thing. It was, like, in the fall of 2008,
3 my dad was approached to see if he had any interest
4 in wind turbines. So it was pretty exciting at the
5 time; you know, nobody knew anything about wind
6 turbines, we were all rookies at the stuff, you
7 know. Knew what they were, but -- like Buffalo
8 Ridge, Xcel's got a big project down in southwestern
9 Minnesota. Knew about that one. So anyway, I said,
10 well, that's interesting.

11 So anyway, they had the informational day
12 the day they dropped off a copy of the wind lease.
13 My dad wanted me to come down. And my brothers,
14 we're all sitting in the kitchen, you know. And
15 Jay -- my father is gone now. But Jay Munding, he
16 explained the whole thing and tried to answer the
17 questions I guess. But about two-thirds of the
18 questions I asked, he said he couldn't answer.

19 So I asked the standard-issue questions,
20 like, was like it union labor that they were going
21 to put them up with, you know, and where are they
22 going to put all the dirt they take out of these
23 holes they're digging and what's going to happen
24 to the county and the township roads? And -- can't
25 answer that, can't answer that. But it was spelled

1 out that the rating -- the nameplate on the turbine
2 was 2.5 meg. What's two and a half megs? Well, I
3 knew it was a million dollars' worth of power.

4 So the biggest issue I had at the time was
5 you're giving the farmer 7,500 bucks, it's a million
6 dollars' worth of power. But at the end of the day,
7 we found out later that I guess they really don't
8 produce what they're designed to produce. But
9 that's not the issue.

10 So anyway, right after that, I went to
11 work at the Xcel Energy plant, at the King plant
12 over in Bayport, Minnesota, that I work out of Local
13 548 millwright union. And so I talked to some of
14 the engineers over there. And they said, forget it;
15 if you want a windmill, talk to General Electric,
16 they make tons of them. They aren't worth anything.
17 But that was before -- obviously before Xcel got
18 into the political side of it and the subsidies,
19 obviously.

20 But the problem I really have with this
21 thing -- and I don't want to get too long-winded
22 here, but it just seems like -- well, I found this
23 out through the testimony down in the Madison the
24 other day, I was watching it on the live stream.
25 And it seemed like it was a slick group, with the

1 elected officials in Forest included, that were
2 working these deals all the way back to 2007. And
3 I'm trying to make logic out of all this, like,
4 okay, they follow the high ridges, they try to
5 connect them in a line so they don't have to run too
6 much cable out for the connecting cable and the
7 access roads and la-de-da. But there were people
8 that didn't make sense, they never contacted them.
9 You know, some people got asked, some people didn't;
10 you're either in the circle or you're not.

11 And anyway, so I want to say we had about
12 a month to look this information over. And, God, I
13 thought, you know what, it's an LLC, never heard of
14 these guys before, it's not Xcel Energy or St. Croix
15 Electric or some viable company. So I said, boy, I
16 don't know. Goll-dang-it, so I told dad, I said
17 what do you think? I said, well, I said, it's your
18 farm, I said, it's not mine, but I said if it was
19 me, I'd waive it, you know. But he said, well,
20 maybe we should put one up. He said, you can farm
21 right up to the base, you only lose a 50-foot
22 circle. I said, Dad, these things are huge, it's
23 like they're setting out a locomotive 400 feet in
24 the air. You're not going to do this by magic.
25 They're going to bring cranes in, you got dump

1 trucks going in and out, concrete trucks. I said
2 which 40 do you want to throw away?

3 So that was the issue I had. A good
4 farmer would not do that. A good farmer is a
5 steward of his farm. You would never allow this in
6 there. And then as things unfolded later on, we
7 found out how big these things were, and that came
8 out in 2010. I didn't get it from Jay that day.

9 So anyway, after that -- but the month
10 went by, it was signup day; and they said, well, we
11 gotta make our decisions, now or never. I said,
12 well, it's your business. Eh, we're going to let
13 her go. So my dad was probably one of the rare
14 birds in Forest that actually turned down a lease
15 agreement, and they promised him seven turbines --
16 up to seven turbines, because we do have some high
17 country over here.

18 So anyway, I said, Dad, I'll tell you
19 what; if it's that good a deal, you'll have your
20 second chance. I just can't imagine signing the
21 rights of that farm over. It doesn't make any
22 sense. There is nothing in it for the farmer. So
23 anyway, God, wasn't much going on after that. We
24 kind of forgot about the whole deal. I thought that
25 will never fly anyway. You know, I mean, obviously

1 the town board has got to be on deck on this thing.
2 There's going to have to be informational meetings
3 coming up long before they ever make any deals with
4 the town board.

5 Well, I guess I was wrong. So along comes
6 about 2009, I believe it was, the fall and spring,
7 the former town chairman was delivering gravel to
8 Joe's farm over here. And Joe says, hey, Roger, he
9 says, what's going on with that wind project? I
10 gotta give you a little bit, you know, and hey,
11 Roger, you didn't sign any leases, did you? I'm not
12 going there. Oh, really? Well, I'll be darned. So
13 a few more months go by, and then one of the last
14 things my dad said before he passed away in February
15 of 2010 is I wonder what -- I don't see any
16 windmills going up. Interesting. Yeah.

17 So later on that summer, 2010, about
18 August, here one of our neighbors down the road,
19 he's got a repair shop, Freddie Nitchey, calls up
20 Joe, he says, have you seen the wind map? Joe says
21 no. Joe hops in his pickup, heads on down to
22 Freddie's place. Holy -- 39 wind turbines, 500
23 footers. It's like the Apaches shot arrows at the
24 Town of Forest, they're all over the place. No
25 rhyme or reason to it.

1 Yeah. I mean, like I said, I'm trying to
2 stay on a neutral basis on this thing. It's like
3 this is definitely a buddy rig here. You're either
4 in the click or you're not. Once we passed on those
5 wind lease agreements, we were out of the circle,
6 never heard any more after that. So to sum this
7 whole thing up, here's my experience. Okay? Back
8 in the '70s, my dad had an opportunity to sell a
9 couple acres we had --

10 (Interruption by the reporter.)

11 MR. JACKELEN: I'm sorry. Yeah, I talk a
12 little fast. Anyway, back in the '70s, my dad had a
13 chance to sell a couple acres to the Midland
14 Cooperative which had an oil business at that time,
15 and the land was right on 128 State Highway, and
16 pretty lucrative at the time. I forget the exact
17 price; but so my dad went out and he talked to Dave
18 Rasmussen, he talked to Bruce Harris, a couple of
19 the neighbors. They said, God, Clarence, we don't
20 want that, geez, you know, to have a tank farm out
21 there next to our place.

22 So a couple weeks later, they called up
23 and said what do you think? He says, well, I gotta
24 let her go. They said why? Neighbors don't want
25 it. Really? Yeah. That was the end of that.

1 Big farmer up by -- and actually his main
2 farm is over in St. Joe Township. This is pretty
3 recent, as of like last summer. Josh Adler, good
4 operator, good farmer, big dairy. Anyway, he was
5 getting the idea maybe he was kind of putting a plan
6 together, he was going to put a three, 4,000 cow
7 dairy system over in Erin Township. But instead
8 of -- he actually -- they practically went door to
9 door; and if the people weren't home, they put door
10 knockers on their door handle to make sure everybody
11 in that township knew what they were planning on
12 doing. And they got excellent informational
13 meetings. I talked to guys that lived around it.
14 They got the feel of the public, the public didn't
15 want it, Josh said I'll let her go. He respected
16 the neighbors.

17 Now we got this thing, we got elected
18 officials, we got guys cutting deals under the
19 fricking wire. And it's like nobody can believe
20 this is even happening. So what do they do with it
21 then? They raise the ante. Well, if we kick it up
22 two turbines, then we can kick it back to the Public
23 Service Commission. Now our local government has no
24 power.

25 So it's like living a nightmare to me.

1 And thanks for listening to my long-winded speech.
2 Appreciate it.

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thanks very much.

4 MR. JACKELLEN: All right.

5 (Witness excused.)

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Doug Hill.

7 DOUG HILL, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: That's H E L L.

9 MR. HILL: H I L L. Thank you.

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: You come up here and do
11 this.

12 MR. HILL: That's okay. It's happened
13 before.

14 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. You're at 117
15 Tiffany Creek Road in Glenwood.

16 MR. HILL: Yes, sir.

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Any particular turbines
18 you are interested in or concerned about?

19 MR. HILL: I'm a host.

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

21 MR. HILL: Okay? And it's on the property
22 at 3151 State Road 64, which is the farm site, and
23 my son and his children are living there now, so...

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Gotcha.

25 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

1 BY MR. HILL: My name is Doug Hill. I've
2 lived and farmed in the Town of Forest on the same
3 farm as my parents and grandparents for the better
4 part of my nearly 66 years. And I believe, as a
5 citizen of a consuming society, we need to begin
6 taking responsibility for what happens in the world
7 around us. U.S. consumption of electricity has
8 nearly doubled every 20 years since 1960. 37
9 percent of U.S. consumption is for residential use.
10 And our use increases by 50 percent during the air
11 conditioning season. With that kind of increasing
12 demand, we need to increase production or we will
13 see more and more rolling brownouts and blackouts
14 during high-use periods.

15 Most of our electric energy production
16 takes place in plants burning fossil fuels, which
17 are reasonably inexpensive and fairly efficient, but
18 emit massive amounts of greenhouse gases. I'm not
19 sure if greenhouse gases are causing global warming
20 or not, if it is -- or if it is just a natural
21 cycle. But I do know that reducing greenhouse gases
22 will not harm us or our environment. This process
23 of producing electricity is also the leading cause
24 of industrial pollution in the United States. Not a
25 pretty picture in my backyard.

1 Nuclear energy production is far more
2 efficient. Nuclear fuel contains millions of the
3 types of free energy found in carbon fuels.
4 However, nuclear accidents at Three Mile Island in
5 1979, Chernobyl in 1986, and Fukushima in 2011, have
6 raised serious questions about safety and health
7 issues. Also, the problems associated with
8 long-term storage and disposal of spent fuel rods is
9 still unresolved. Another not-so-pretty picture in
10 my backyard.

11 That brings us to the use of renewable
12 energy sources. And we are here today to discuss
13 wind energy, specifically Highland Wind Farm. With
14 wind power, there are no pollutants discharged into
15 the atmosphere or any greenhouse gases emitted. An
16 efficient wind farm can produce electricity
17 efficiently. Highland Wind Farm will bring an
18 economic boost to our community and several good
19 jobs to the area for many years to come.

20 To me, this whole concept appears to be a
21 more appealing backyard than those other options.
22 For all of this and more, I strongly support the
23 approval of the Highland Wind Farm. Thank you.

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, sir. And I
25 apologize.

1 MR. HILL: That's okay.

2 (Witness excused.)

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Mr. Johnston. It's a
4 little easier.

5 MR. JOHNSTON: First name Tom?

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Yes.

7 THOMAS JOHNSTON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Give us your name for
9 the record, please.

10 MR. JOHNSTON: Yep. It's Thomas Johnston,
11 J O H N S T O N. And I live at 2934 210 Avenue in
12 Forest Township.

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. And any turbine
14 location you're concerned about or interested in?

15 MR. JOHNSTON: Yeah, mostly 5 and 6A,
16 they're labeled on the map. And 5 is about 3,000
17 feet away from us and 6A is about 1,700, maybe
18 1,650 --

19 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

20 MR. JOHNSTON: -- from our home. Not our
21 property line, but our home.

22 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

23 BY MR. JOHNSTON: One of the things that I
24 noticed when I was going through, even prior to the
25 testimony in Madison, was that I was going through

1 the expert testimony. And the expert testimony that
2 I'm referring to is Hessler, Punch, Slaymaker and
3 Schomer. And when I was going through there, there
4 is a lot of conflicting information. And they have
5 different theories that they pose, they have
6 different assumptions that they put in. They have
7 all kinds of different things.

8 Here's the point that I'm trying to make.
9 When expert testimony appears to be conflicting,
10 what happens many times is that there's -- it's
11 analogous to, like, Five Blind Men, the story that
12 we've heard here before about five blind men looking
13 around an elephant trying to describe to people who
14 had never heard of an elephant. And it appears to
15 be conflicting, with very hard to understand what
16 they're saying.

17 And I think the experts are analogous to
18 that. They're giving us conflicting information.
19 But I think the reason that it's conflicting or it
20 appears to be conflicting is because there is a
21 larger truth. And the point that I'm trying to
22 drive to is that I would like the Public Service
23 Commission to not subject people of Forest Township
24 to what is essentially a 30-year experiment when the
25 conflicting expert testimony is certainly indicating

1 that there is a larger truth that still remains to
2 be discovered. And it relates to an audible noise,
3 inaudible noise, health effects and -- regarding the
4 industrial wind turbines.

5 So I would ask the Public Service
6 Commission to not allow the wind farm to proceed for
7 those reasons. Thank you.

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Thanks very
9 much.

10 (Witness excused.)

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Now Anne Johnston.

12 MR. JOHNSTON: The better half.

13 ANNE JOHNSTON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

14 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Can you
15 give us your name for the record.

16 MS. JOHNSTON: Anne Johnston, Anne with an
17 E. And my address is 2934 210th Avenue. And there
18 are two turbines on the property behind us. The one
19 is 5 and the other one is an alternate that we are
20 concerned about. But there are also turbines around
21 us in the other direction too. So they are kind of
22 all around us.

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

24 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

25 BY MS. JOHNSTON: My husband and I moved

1 here 11 years ago this month to enjoy the peace and
2 quiet of living in a small town. The home we built
3 is an investment in our retirement, and we have
4 discussed over the past years of giving land to our
5 kids for them to build on. We bought 80 acres, and
6 that's something that we'd like to be able to do.

7 In my opinion, if 41 500-foot industrial
8 scale wind turbines are allowed to be built, we will
9 be adversely impacted. First, we will lose the
10 peace and quiet we cherish. And that was one of the
11 main reasons we came out here. Second, I feel our
12 home will lose significant value or we won't be able
13 to sell it at all. Residents in Glenmore,
14 Wisconsin, the Shirley project, have had to move
15 from their homes due to health effects caused by
16 eight turbines being built there in their industrial
17 wind project. There are 41 of these turbines
18 planned here in Forest. That's a huge, huge
19 difference.

20 And third, we will lose the use of our
21 land for our boys to build homes here if that is
22 what they wish to do. Nobody in their right mind
23 would want to build a home an unsafe distance from
24 an industrial scale wind turbine. Our land is being
25 used as a buffer zone by our neighbor who is hosting

1 these turbines. And I don't believe that any of the
2 Commissioners would allow a 500-foot industrial
3 scale wind turbine 1,250 feet from their homes
4 knowing that there would be health and safety issues
5 for their families.

6 In my opinion, if this project is
7 improved, our health, quality of life, and right to
8 use our own property will be extremely compromised,
9 and our retirement will be adversely affected. So
10 I'm asking the Commission to not approve this
11 project. And I thank you for your time today.

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, ma'am.

13 (Witness excused.)

14 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Dennis Eggert. Well,
15 apparently there is a problem with the phone line
16 being affected by phones in the room; so if you just
17 want to make sure your phones are on mute, I guess
18 that has something to do with it. I'm not an expert
19 on that, but...

20 MR. EGGERT: Eggert.

21 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Eggert. E G G E R T.

22 MR. EGGERT: Correct.

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. And let me swear
24 you in.

25 DENNIS EGGERT, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And give your address
2 or any property location you're concerned about.

3 MR. EGGERT: 2217 270th Street, which is
4 straight north of town. I have two turbines just a
5 little over half a mile from my residence; and all
6 the power from all 41 will go past my residence to
7 the substation.

8 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

9 BY MR. EGGERT: Hello. My name is Dennis
10 Eggert, I'm 64 years old, and I've lived, worked and
11 farmed in the Town of Forest my entire life. I also
12 served on the town board in the 1980s. The dislike
13 of this wind turbine project is obvious because of
14 the results of the recall and general election.
15 What a shame the promise of some money has done to
16 the people of this community. Family, friends and
17 neighbors are divided because of this project, and
18 we have not yet turned a shovelful of dirt.

19 Constructing these turbines will disrupt
20 people, animals, wild and domestic, and birds. The
21 harmful effects are to be minor, but they are only
22 minor if they're in somebody else's backyard. I
23 don't want any of my family, friends or neighbors to
24 get sick, disrupted or displaced because of this
25 project. This Township of Forest will survive just

1 fine without the problems and promise of money for
2 this project. Please stop this project and let our
3 township begin to heal. Thank you.

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, sir.

5 (Witness excused.)

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Larry McNamara.

7 LARRY McNAMARA, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Give us your name.

9 MR. McNAMARA: Larry McNamara.

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And any address that
11 you're concerned about or property in the project
12 area?

13 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

14 MR. McNAMARA: My concerns are as -- I'm
15 not going to go in -- everything has been
16 investigated, done, through all the channels, as far
17 as the health and all that. But I guess I
18 originally was in favor -- my only dislike of the
19 project originally was to not -- the sight of them,
20 just the visibility of looking at them. But I
21 didn't interfere with what the neighbors were doing
22 and then later when the board was switched and they
23 needed -- I did add one when they had to add two to
24 go to state levels. And with this, the big thing I
25 found out is I realized the dependence on having

1 county, state and federal control to take this out
2 of local hands due to the conflict of the neighbors
3 and stuff.

4 Now, if it was 13 families here, if it was
5 my son going to war, would these 200 rebellers stand
6 up and fight like this not to have that happen? But
7 yet they're envious of the fact that somebody may
8 make a dollar on renting some land, which right now
9 with the corn prices it might not be such a good
10 deal anyway.

11 And I guess I'm just -- somebody has to
12 make a sacrifice. I've been here for 66 years, my
13 grandfather was just in Cylon outside of Forest
14 Township, and we're into the fourth generation
15 that's born here in Forest. And if there was no
16 progress, we would still not have our blacktopped
17 roads, telephones, internet. I'm sure you used the
18 freeway coming up. And if you left that up to the
19 people that lived where that freeway was going to
20 go, they would -- yes, somebody's got to make a
21 sacrifice. Just, like I said, like we do with our
22 soldiers, there's great sacrifices being made.

23 That's where I'm at. I originally signed
24 the thing quite late just due to the fact that if
25 they had to cross my land. And now I basically --

1 like I said, due to the state level deal, I did add
2 one or I'm going to put one up. And I have now
3 realized, too, if you watch -- just watching TV or
4 looking at any magazine, the windmill signifies
5 country; and it also -- it will be saving me, yes.
6 The alternative is to sell parcels of land to the
7 investors and stuff that want to build homes and
8 stuff. But this way I can keep the farm together.
9 And it's not only like alternative energy, it's
10 alternative income for me.

11 And I guess that's where I stand on the
12 deal. So I'm in favor of it as sacrificing my land
13 or -- if we can put a man on the moon, I feel we can
14 correct any problems that may develop. And I have
15 made contact with a lot of the people that are
16 living in these projects and there's not -- thus far
17 all this stuff isn't really a said-and-done problem.
18 There's nothing to -- that controls it.

19 So thank you, and I appreciate your
20 authority and your concern in listening to us.

21 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Well, thanks very much.

22 (Witness excused.)

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Douglas -- is it Karan?

24 MR. KARAU: Karau.

25 DOUGLAS KARAU, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: State your name for the
2 record.

3 MR. KARAU: Douglas Karau.

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Can you spell your last
5 name.

6 MR. KARAU: K A R A U.

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Great. And tell
8 us where you live or where you have property of
9 concern or the location on the property.

10 MR. KARAU: I live west of the Town of
11 Forest here on 69. My address is 2643 State Road
12 64, Emerald, Wisconsin.

13 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

14 BY MR. KARAU: My wife and I, we purchased
15 our farm in 1980; so I may not be the longest
16 resident here, but I have lived in Forest for some
17 time now. My wife has been town treasurer for 24
18 years. I've been a former town board member for --
19 I don't even know if it was six or eight years, but
20 it was less substantial. So we've been involved
21 with town politics for a while. Most of it's always
22 been rural issues. We're a very rural town here.
23 So it's never a lot of action usually at our town
24 board meeting.

25 We did get involved in a -- the wind

1 turbine issue here back early 2008, 2007, in that
2 area. We were approached by a company, Emerging
3 Energy, to give a presentation to the town board.
4 They were not on the agenda at that time; so we
5 respectfully asked if they'd wait a month, we'd put
6 them on the agenda and then they can come and give a
7 presentation at that time.

8 The next month came, and we didn't know if
9 they'd show up for nothing or if they were just
10 flying through or something; but they did show up,
11 they gave a presentation. And when they were there
12 the month before, we had a couple of people in the
13 audience ask them questions. So they went home and
14 came back with a presentation on what they're
15 looking to do. They wanted to put a turbine up,
16 they done some -- some inverse studies said there
17 was some potential for wind energy in the area. And
18 they gave a presentation. They didn't know exactly
19 what models or where anything would be placed. This
20 was all just starting a study.

21 They -- people asked questions, size of
22 turbines, what do these turbines look like, how many
23 are we talking? You know, at that stage nobody knew
24 yet. So we went on from there. If you don't mind,
25 I'm going to put my glasses on. I need these

1 cheaters.

2 I've raised a family on our farm. I
3 farmed it. And as of right now, I work for a
4 nursing home company as a maintenance and life
5 safety specialist in the Twin Cities area. My wife
6 is a teacher in the Head Start Program. So we've
7 been very involved with the local area here.

8 My testimony is not going to be about the
9 project. A lot's been said about the project and
10 what is good or what is bad. There's been a lot of
11 misinformation, there's been a lot of saying what
12 every -- I was told once when I was a town board
13 member that -- by an opponent of the thing that no
14 matter what you say, I'm going to say or do whatever
15 is necessary not to have it happen to our thing.

16 So I've had all kinds of experiences
17 happen to me. I've been involved in many lawsuits
18 over the last four years, and I'm not even going to
19 go there. This isn't the venue to address that in.

20 What I'm going to talk about is some
21 reality, what these -- you know, we never denied
22 anybody any right to speak at any town board
23 meeting, give any presentation they wanted to,
24 address their issues. But, then again, we did not
25 deny anybody wanting to ask questions positive on

1 the windmill, to talk to the -- you know, there was
2 none of the town board meetings if Emerging Energy
3 talked to them or not.

4 This means a lot to the individual
5 farmers. These individual farmers in this rural
6 community, just like any other county -- I have a
7 degree in diversified agricultural from the
8 University of Minnesotan and an economics degree
9 from River Falls, so I pretty well understand
10 agriculture. And these farmers do not take their
11 duties as farmers lightly. They research a project.
12 They may not sit around a big conference table and
13 make big decisions as a corporation does. But they
14 do sit around their family table and they discuss an
15 issue between their family members, maybe their
16 significant other, maybe their wife, their children,
17 maybe aunts and uncles. Some it may be for, some it
18 may be against. But that's their individual choice.
19 That's nothing -- as a town board member I didn't
20 feel it was my job to enter that. I just wanted to
21 make sure that everybody that had a question could
22 answer -- ask their question and look for an answer
23 if they could.

24 These farmers have the right to diversify
25 their agricultural production. As we've seen

1 through this last summer with the drought and heat,
2 no -- every farmer knows not to put his eggs in one
3 basket. They're always looking for some way to
4 diversify their production potential on the farm;
5 and that being this wind energy is a source, just
6 like their corn takes the sun power, transmits it
7 into grain. What wind is is just the difference
8 between hot and cold, solar energy creating a wind
9 and these wind turbines are harvesting that wind.
10 So it's an agricultural production unit that fits
11 very well in this area of agriculture.

12 They require the setback rulings, we were
13 very well aware of them, the setback rulings ask
14 that there be land buffers around these turbines.
15 So we realized that this would have to be in a rural
16 agricultural setting if this was to happen. It
17 wasn't our choice to have it happen or not. That's
18 the people's choice. But we were just -- you know,
19 it could happen in this area because we were an
20 agricultural area.

21 These farmers are -- you hear a lot about
22 industrial wind turbines. These farmers are in the
23 industry of agriculture. They realize that they
24 can't farm with the B John Deere no more. If
25 they're going to farm nowadays, they gotta have

1 industrial-size equipment, they gotta have
2 industrial-size planters, tractors, to get the crop
3 in. Yes, they hear lots of complaints from people
4 driving cars up and down the road that there's slow
5 machinery, it's noisy machinery, it's big machinery.
6 And these farmers don't like that, but they've got
7 to get their job done and they know they're going to
8 have this grief put upon them.

9 These farmers, they can't milk three cows
10 no more and make a living for their family. They
11 know they gotta use economies of scale to use
12 industrial-size milking parlors, barns, and
13 enterprises to make -- to produce the milk. They
14 realize that they don't do this all on their own.
15 They're all part of an industry that's put together.
16 There is a milk truck driver that goes up and down
17 the road and picks up the milk, takes it to a plant,
18 that plant processes it into cheese, and then that
19 gets put onto a warehouse, gets to a grocery store
20 and everybody benefits by that. And that's all done
21 through the industry of agriculture.

22 So these wind turbines being addressed as
23 industrial, it's -- agriculture is industrial. It's
24 just part of an industry of agriculture using a
25 means of a production unit, the wind turbine, to

1 diversify his agricultural production, make a little
2 more income on it. Maybe his crops failed that
3 year, but he does have a little to fall behind on.

4 Everybody doesn't have to have -- or maybe
5 they don't want it, they don't have to have it.
6 Nobody's saying who and who cannot. That's their
7 own individual decision. They sat down with their
8 family members, they evaluated it, see if it fits
9 into their program; and if it did, they went along
10 with it. I was no part of any part of that. But --
11 and if they didn't want it, nobody was forced to say
12 you've got to do it, this project will fall through
13 if you don't do it. Everybody was respected for
14 their own decision and was given their right to move
15 forward or back depending upon that.

16 These farmers realize that no matter
17 where -- what they do, being in agricultural with
18 animals, they're going to be complained about the
19 smell, the dirt, the noise; or if it's with farm
20 machinery moving back and forth to fields planting
21 their crops or harvesting their crops, the consumer
22 is going to be complaining to them about the noise
23 and the dust, lights at night, or being it spreading
24 their resources of the animal production, the smell
25 of the manure or something. They're all getting

1 complaints.

2 These farmers are used to having consumers
3 complain to them. They do the best they can. But
4 they realize that they cannot answer every complaint
5 by not doing it, because by not doing it, there will
6 be no agricultural as we know -- there will be no
7 agriculture, period. So they go about doing their
8 agriculture production, they diversify their
9 production how they see fit or not fit, and that's a
10 decision made by people that handle moneys; just
11 like a big corporation where they got lots of
12 resources going into their crops, they got lots of
13 resources going into their animal production, and
14 they're making decisions, but they're making their
15 decision based on the stewardship of how they run
16 their farm and how they want that farm.

17 Many of these farmers have been around for
18 generations and generations and generations. I
19 myself, I haven't lived here all that long, but my
20 family has farmers that have been around. I came
21 from southern Minnesota. I've seen wind turbines
22 for 30 years. I have never heard of an ill effect
23 of anybody that I know about it. I done my
24 research. I talked to many people in southern
25 Minnesota that have turbines. I talked to them down

1 Highway 12. They have them right outside Hector. I
2 went to school with many people from Hector; ran
3 into these people from Buffalo Lake, they have them
4 right outside the town, they have them right outside
5 of Carlton College, right outside University of
6 Minnesota campus where I went to school at. And I
7 done a lot of research. And there is a lot of hype,
8 there's a lot of scare tactics, there's a lot of the
9 dirty political games that you would have never
10 thought could happen in Forest Township, and there
11 is a lot of that going around.

12 But this is a fine opportunity for the
13 people that want to take advantage, and there is
14 consideration for the people that -- I realize
15 everybody's not going to want to look at them,
16 everybody's not going to want to -- they're going to
17 be scared somehow, there's a lot of scare tactics
18 that have been thrown out there. Most of them are
19 not founded as I can ever see any fact to. And if
20 there is, there is mitigation in the setback rules
21 and the windmill siting rules to address almost --
22 I'm sure there is a potential problem that I can't
23 imagine, but any one that I can is there.

24 I'd like to thank this opportunity to get
25 my two cents into this.

1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Thanks very
2 much.

3 (Witness excused.)

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Rita Buhr.

5 MS. BUHR: That's right, Buhr.

6 RITA BUHR, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Can you give us your
8 name.

9 MS. BUHR: Rita Buhr, B U H R.

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And you live at 2081
11 County Road P?

12 MS. BUHR: Yes.

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Any particular wind
14 turbine site or location?

15 MS. BUHR: We are a host family.

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

17 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

18 BY MS. BUHR: Members of the PSC, my
19 grandfather settled in the Township of Forest over
20 90 years ago. The land was cleared, trees were cut
21 down, and logs were sent off on the train. The
22 landscape changed. But the need for cropland was
23 evident for farmers. My father purchased the farm
24 that my husband and I reside on over 65 years ago.
25 I have lived here all my life.

1 The Township of Forest is a farming
2 community where we are stewards of the land.
3 Farmers raise corn, soybeans and other various
4 crops. The countryside is dotted with dairy cattle
5 which provide us with endless dairy products and
6 beef cattle for our meat consumption. Excess
7 commodities are sold to the market to be processed
8 into consumable products that each of us purchase at
9 our local grocery. How can a wind farm be any
10 different?

11 The Highland Wind Farm is a project of
12 harvesting the wind, a product that will provide
13 each and every one of us with clean and renewable
14 energy, meeting our ever-increasing needs. Yes, the
15 landscape will change, just as it did 90 years ago.
16 The Highland Wind project is of utmost importance
17 for our future generations. On return to our home
18 one evening, the wind was blowing. My husband
19 mentioned how windy it was. And our grandson, age
20 10, commented saying, well, that's a good thing,
21 isn't it? Yes, it is a good thing. I ask that you
22 support the Highland Wind Farm project.

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thank you.

24 (Witness excused.)

25 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Carol Johnson.

1 CAROL JOHNSON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Give us your name.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Carol Johnson, J O H N S O N.

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And you're at 2261
5 270th Street?

6 MS. JOHNSON: Correct.

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Deer Park.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And any particular
10 location you're concerned about or want to --

11 MS. JOHNSON: No.

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

13 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

14 BY MS. JOHNSON: My name is Carol Johnson.
15 I am a resident of Forest Township and have been
16 since 2009. I do not own land within the boundaries
17 of the Highland Wind Farm and to the best of my
18 knowledge will not personally benefit financially
19 from the wind farm.

20 In the interest of full disclosure, I am a
21 retired -- I am retired from a career that included
22 several years working in the commercial wind
23 industry. I've never worked for Emerging Energies,
24 the developer of the Highland Wind Farm, but have
25 worked on several wind farm developments for a

1 variety of commercial wind developers. I have
2 absolutely no concerns with living near wind
3 turbines; and as someone who is knowledgeable in the
4 technology, my testimony today is in support of the
5 Highland Wind Farm.

6 Before we moved to Forest Township, we
7 would visit often, mostly on weekends, and were
8 excited to hear of the proposed wind farm. Those
9 that we talked to in the community seemed genuinely
10 excited about the project. It was the talk of the
11 town.

12 As someone who has seen the direct
13 benefits of wind farm developments in small farming
14 communities, I knew this little Town of Forest would
15 experience an economic development that would ensure
16 the future of its agricultural nature. I knew the
17 small businesses in the area, restaurants, gas
18 stations, hotels and grocery stores, would enjoy the
19 growth of their small businesses as a result of the
20 wind farm development. I also knew that there
21 were -- there would be much needed job opportunities
22 for some of the residents in the community. All
23 very positive impacts to a small farming community
24 and a part of Wisconsin that is lucky enough to have
25 a wind resource strong enough for a wind farm

1 development.

2 I was extremely disappointed when the
3 anti-wind propaganda began to surface. I knew from
4 my experience in developing wind farms that the
5 information existed; but in the areas where I
6 worked, the residents welcomed the wind development
7 as they saw the value of developing their valuable
8 natural resource, wind, that was prominent in their
9 area. I also knew that the propaganda being
10 circulated had many times been proven to be based on
11 falsehoods and was simply a scare tactic to attempt
12 to gain support against the wind industry.

13 Those who are familiar with wind farms
14 know they are not only economically beneficial to
15 the farming community, but safe to live within and
16 near. The shame of what has happened in our
17 community is that people who know better but oppose
18 the project have been able to use misinformation to
19 scare those who do not know better in order to
20 support their anti-wind agenda.

21 I urge the Public Service Commission to
22 approve the Highland Wind Farm for development as
23 soon as possible. The Town of Forest, State of
24 Wisconsin, and the United States of America cannot
25 afford to delay any longer the development of much

1 needed renewable energy projects such as this
2 Highland Wind Farm. Thank you very much for your
3 time.

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

5 (Witness excused.)

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Richard Lambert.

7 RICHARD LAMBERT, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And give us your name,
9 please.

10 MR. LAMBERT: Richard Lambert.

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: L A M B E R T?

12 MR. LAMBERT: Right. 2336 280th Street.

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Clear Lake?

14 MR. LAMBERT: Yeah.

15 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Like I asked everyone,
16 do you have a particular location or turbine site
17 you're concerned about?

18 MR. LAMBERT: I'm up in the northern
19 portion. Probably the closest one is maybe
20 three-quarters of a mile or so of -- my
21 brother-in-law is going to have I think three right
22 around his place. He's down on P.

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

24 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

25 BY MR. LAMBERT: I have lived in Forest

1 Township for over 45 years with my wife, Marlys, who
2 was born and raised here. We raised our family here
3 and have enjoyed the many benefits of living in a
4 rural communities: being able to look out my window
5 and see numerous wildlife and the peace and serenity
6 of living in the country.

7 During this time, I have observed many new
8 families move into the area and build new homes to
9 enjoy the same benefits. All of a sudden, because
10 of the actions of our previous town board and the
11 actions of the host families, we have the
12 possibility of looking at 41 500-foot-tall wind
13 generating turbines. I'm sure this is not what the
14 people who have moved here had envisioned.

15 Before our town board went ahead and
16 signed any papers with Emerging Energies/Highland
17 Wind Farm, LLC, they should have looked into the
18 matter more thoroughly. Letters should have been
19 sent to the residents of the township informing them
20 of what was going on. Something of this nature
21 which will affect the future of the township for
22 years to come cannot simply be decided by three
23 board members. Not all issues can be decided by the
24 almighty dollar.

25 If Emerging Energies/Highland Wind Farm,

1 LLC, were to get approval for this project, we will
2 no longer see new families move into the area, the
3 growth of this township will cease; and, in fact, it
4 will probably decline if the people are even able to
5 sell their homes and move elsewhere. This alone
6 will not be an easy task once the wind turbines are
7 in and operating.

8 My feelings and the feelings of the
9 majority of the residents of this township are that
10 these huge turbines do not belong in a residential
11 and agricultural area. They should be out in wide
12 open spaces where the effect on individual homes and
13 their pursuit of happiness as stated in the
14 Constitution will not be affected. And I want to
15 thank you for your consideration in this matter.

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thanks very much.

17 (Witness excused.)

18 (Discussion off the record.)

19 EXAMINER NEWMARK: We have Gloria Hogan,
20 Logan? Looks like L O G A N. Here she is. Okay.
21 Great.

22 GLORIA LOGAN, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Please spell your name
24 for the record.

25 MS. LOGAN: L O G A N.

1 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right.

2 MS. LOGAN: Gloria Logan.

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And you're at 2880
4 County Road Q in Clear Lake?

5 MS. LOGAN: That's correct.

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Any particular site
7 location or property you're concerned about?

8 MS. LOGAN: We have turbine number 5 and
9 three other turbines that I will address in my
10 comment.

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Go ahead.

12 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

13 BY MS. LOGAN: Go ahead? My name is
14 Gloria Logan. My address is 2880 County Road Q,
15 Clear Lake, Wisconsin. My husband and I have owned
16 and lived at this address for over 46 years. My
17 husband, Dale, has lived in Forest Township all his
18 life. We chose this area because of the peace and
19 quiet of rural life, availability of good schools,
20 closeness to family, convenient commute to the Twin
21 Cities for employment, and good neighbors.

22 We grew up associating with many of the
23 Forest residents. We consider this a good and safe
24 place to raise our children. Now, in our retirement
25 years, which should be a time of relaxation for us,

1 we are faced with 41 almost-500-feet-tall industrial
2 commercial wind turbines. The proposed number 5
3 turbine is 1,495 feet southeast of our house. That
4 large machine can throw ice a distance further than
5 that. If it starts on fire, we are within the
6 danger zone. Three more turbines are proposed
7 within one mile of our residence.

8 Emerging Energies also proposes to run the
9 underground transmission cable in the ditch past our
10 house. Shadow flicker can cover our entire
11 property. We are on the list of residences with
12 predicted values of greater than 45 dBA noise level.
13 What is the dollar value of our house? Unsalable.

14 In my opinion, this project was improperly
15 handled from the start. Informational letters
16 should have been mailed to all town residents and
17 landowners before the project started. Public
18 informational meetings should have been held to
19 include all residents and landowners. A special
20 referendum vote should have been held so the
21 citizens of Town of Forest could decide whether or
22 not they lived (sic) an industrial commercial wind
23 turbine facility. Invitations to informational
24 meetings were only after the agreements had been
25 signed.

1 I do not want to see our township littered
2 with broken-down turbines in years to come. It is
3 my opinion that PSC approval of this project would
4 be disastrous to the Township of Forest. The social
5 environment in the Township of Forest is sad, very
6 sad.

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you.

8 MS. LOGAN: Thank you very much.

9 (Witness excused.)

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Elden Setter, S E T T-
11 E R. Am I getting that right? I'll put him aside
12 for right now. Let's go off the record for a
13 minute.

14 (Discussion off the record.)

15 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Back on.

16 JAIME JUNKER, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Mr. Junker, go ahead.

18 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

19 MR. JUNKER: So these are my opinions.
20 The applicant increased the size of the project by a
21 couple of turbines in order to complete their
22 application and come under the jurisdiction of the
23 state PSC rather than the Town of Forest. If the
24 Shirley Wind project, which was designed by the
25 applicant, has three families leaving their home,

1 could it be possible that a project with 41 turbines
2 designed by the same company could have
3 proportionately 15 families abandoning their home --
4 homes rather? If one of these important
5 coefficients that we've learned about over the last
6 few days used for modeling is off a little bit,
7 could that be 20 or 30 families will need to leave
8 their homes?

9 It seems there is more information than
10 not that this project has a real possibility to
11 become a man-made disaster. Next week, the
12 applicant is going to be allowed to show what a
13 redesign to 40 dBAs will do to the project. And
14 respectfully, you know, have we figured out whether
15 that's going to be used as a ground coefficient of
16 zero, which we learned the last few days was
17 meaningful, versus a ground coefficient of 5 when
18 they do this hypothetical to redesigning at 40 dBA?
19 I think that's very important.

20 My opinions are how will the town be able
21 to have our experts relook at a redesign and pay our
22 experts to do so? The --

23 MR. WILSON: Your Honor, I'm going to have
24 to object.

25 MR. JUNKER: It's my opinion and I'm a

1 resident.

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: If you can just move on
3 to the project generally and not specifics about the
4 case. I think that will probably be helpful to
5 avoid a complication.

6 MR. JUNKER: Okay. All documents to the
7 docket are important because this is the first time
8 I am aware of that a local government has renounced
9 a PSC application for a wind farm. So it's
10 extremely important that the docket -- that the
11 findings of fact going to the Commission really
12 write up the town's position because it shows the
13 history of the project.

14 Ultimately, I believe any redesigned
15 project really wasn't the intention of Highland; and
16 that whole process is not giving the community the
17 resources as this redesign is put forward at 40 dBA
18 to basically put up the arguments for it.

19 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. And you'll have
20 a chance to address that when that's filed. The
21 town will have a chance to address all of that.

22 MR. JUNKER: Okay.

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Just so you know that.

24 MR. JUNKER: All right. Thank you.

25 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Thanks.

1 (Witness excused.)

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Rick
3 Steinberger.

4 RICK STEINBERGER, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Please spell your name
6 for the record.

7 MR. STEINBERGER: It's Rick Steinberger.
8 Steinberger is S T E I N B E R G E R.

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. I have you at
10 1969 County Road P in Glenwood?

11 MR. STEINBERGER: That's correct.

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Is there any other
13 properties or particular turbine location you're
14 concerned about?

15 MR. STEINBERGER: The closest one I have
16 is number 49; and the setbacks -- actually, the
17 1,250 foot infringes on my properties. So that's a
18 concern of mine.

19 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

20 BY MR. STEINBERGER: But I didn't come
21 near as prepared as I wanted to today because in the
22 last three weeks I've been dealing with issues such
23 as asbestos, mercury, over in the State of
24 Minnesota. 30, 40, 50 years ago, asbestos,
25 mercury -- remember playing with it in science

1 class? Asbestos was the next big thing for
2 insulation?

3 Well, right now we're dealing with mercury
4 in nanograms. There's one billion nanograms in a
5 gram. There's 454 grams in a pound. And we used to
6 play with this stuff in school, in science class.
7 Asbestos, they measure that in microns. I mean, you
8 can't see microns. What you can't see can hurt you.

9 And I've been dealing with this stuff for
10 three weeks, leaving the house at 3:30 in the
11 morning, getting home at 9, 10 at night; and this to
12 me is what this township is getting into right now.
13 I was actually kind of on the -- little bit of the
14 green energy side before I actually got on the town
15 board, which I'm now on. And I've been looking for
16 15 years to put up a personal wind turbine in my
17 yard to try to help with my electricity consumption.
18 You can't make them pay for themselves.

19 So I've been looking at all this stuff.
20 And then when I heard about the size of these, I
21 started researching and I started hearing and it's,
22 like, these things can't be that bad for you. You
23 know, with all the health impacts that they're
24 saying. Well, I was appointed to the plan
25 commission and I started doing my research; and I

1 researched the far left, I researched the far right.
2 And you can pretty much form an opinion on both
3 sides. You can -- I tried to stay in the middle a
4 little bit.

5 And then reading about the Shirley
6 project, okay, I can't make that a condition on the
7 Shirley project 'til I go out there myself. So I
8 did. I took a trip out there. I got my wife and my
9 three daughters with me, we're driving around
10 looking at it. I spent about 20 minutes out in
11 front of one of them looking around. And I'm not
12 telling the kids what we're up to. And my one
13 daughter tells me, hey, Dad, can we get out of here,
14 I got a really bad headache. I had a headache, but
15 I didn't want to say nothing. And I'm just thinking
16 it's just a headache. Until I left, 30 miles down
17 the road, my headache disappeared, my daughter's
18 disappeared. I never said a word to them about it.

19 So that got me really thinking and doing
20 the research on this. And to me, we have the
21 potential because what we can't see can harm.
22 I'm -- like I said, I'm dealing with it at work.

23 You know, and the noise. I don't
24 understand how we can look at the different noise
25 levels when the World Health Organizations are

1 talking between 30 and 35 dBA for a good night
2 sleep, and we're allowed 45. Some people sleep
3 during the daytime where it's 55. I don't
4 understand how we can look at this. It's
5 incredible. I mention safety again. Land. It's
6 page 52 or 58, I can't quite recall, of the Nordex
7 N100 manuals. It says in case of a fire evacuate
8 1,500 feet. Okay. So now you can put these things
9 250 feet away from a home where in the case of a
10 fire now the homeowners have to evacuate? I don't
11 see that as being right here.

12 You know, and then you look at
13 efficiencies and clean and green. What people don't
14 understand about clean and green on these things
15 also is there's a product that's called rare earth
16 minerals that's required in the south for the
17 generators. These rare earth minerals are
18 environmentally -- how should I put this -- it's not
19 a real environmental situation to mine them. It's a
20 hard rock mining process. So primarily they're
21 mined in China. A year ago I read an article from
22 China about this great big environmental disaster
23 spill because of rare earth minerals going into the
24 clean green energy.

25 I read an article last week from Denmark

1 with all the turbine blades that they're having
2 problems with. Their landfills are filling up
3 because of the overused turbines. Well, that same
4 scenario is going to come to the United States, come
5 to the State of Wisconsin. Granted, technology is
6 getting better. You know, so if we're going to
7 stick government money into these, let's stick it
8 into the research, not stick it into places where
9 we're going to have -- I heard it in the past -- a
10 guinea pig situation.

11 And, you know, going through all this
12 stuff, I'm looking; and in the application, I look
13 at some portions of it, you know, where the town
14 doesn't have any access permits to this, you know,
15 the town doesn't have road agreements with this. I
16 mean, so there is a lot in the application that the
17 Town of Forest is not totally agreeing with either.

18 Once again, back to the research on the
19 wind energy. I was astounded how much material is
20 out there. And as I'm going through this, it just
21 got into my head here about a month ago when we
22 started talking about health issues that I'm
23 thinking about, well, this is my own family. I have
24 a wife that has an irregular heartbeat, I have a
25 daughter with asthma, and I have another daughter

1 who gets dizzy and has severe headaches quite
2 frequently. Me, myself, I just feel like I'm
3 getting old.

4 But it's out there. And I was trying to
5 look at all this stuff trying to help write a wind
6 ordinance when I'm not even thinking about my own
7 family. I'm thinking of the overall protection of
8 the town. And just looking at that, you know, I've
9 been in the town for 21 years, my family is
10 predominantly from the Town of Forest, my dad grew
11 up here, my aunt and uncle live on the home farm
12 that's in the Town of Forest. And it's just -- it's
13 hard to believe we're in a situation like this.

14 So if the Public Service Commission is
15 going to err, err on the safe side. Don't make an
16 error that we're going to go down the road and end
17 up being like mercury, asbestos and the tobacco
18 industry. And just on a final thought, the
19 certificate for public convenience and necessity.
20 Define convenience, define necessity. Neither one
21 of those two words fit this project in the Town of
22 Forest. Thank you.

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you.

24 (Witness excused.)

25 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Laverne Hoitomt, H O I-

1 T O M T.

2 MR. HOITOMT: My compliments. You
3 pronounced it quite well.

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right.

5 LAVERNE HOITOMT, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I'll give you a shot at
7 your name then.

8 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

9 BY MR. HOITOMT: My name is Laverne
10 Hoitomt. I'm somewhat over the 70-year mark. I've
11 been in this township for the better part of most of
12 my life and still a resident here.

13 And I am not a -- concerned as much about
14 the presence of the windmills because my neighbor's
15 got a couple of them, they are across the road for
16 me, but the highway will probably restrict them from
17 my presence. Obviously there is many others that
18 have got a concern.

19 And some of my concerns are with the
20 safety of the proposed collector -- routing of the
21 collector circuits that go through the township
22 ditches. There are going to be obviously issues
23 over the next 30 years, there may be signage that
24 broke off, culverts that collapse, drainage that has
25 to be repaired. And if there's roads that are --

1 traffic is interrupted, how do we go about fixing
2 them? Do we shut the power down, do we risk the
3 life of individuals that are working out there?
4 Obviously there are ways of locating. They have
5 electronic locating devices, but they're accurate to
6 a degree. Most of us would not probably trust our
7 life on them.

8 So you wind up having to have to hand
9 locate to obviously get to where you can expose it.
10 Okay. You're running a shovel and there is 34,000
11 volts down in that ditch. I think that gets a
12 little bit nerve-racking for the person that's
13 working on it.

14 I worked for the telecommunications
15 industry for 40 years. I am well aware of signage
16 is mediocre at best, records are not always
17 accurate. There's a potential for things to get,
18 shall we say, for somebody's life to be in danger or
19 certainly be injured.

20 And I'm also worried about the electrical
21 induction or AC induction that is coming off of the
22 static device that's on the horizontal access wind
23 turbine. This device is designed to strip the
24 static buildup off of the shaft so that it doesn't
25 destroy the bearings. At least that's how it's

1 advertised in their literature. They can take up --
2 reduce up to 3,000 volts of static energy. It
3 obviously has to go into some ground field. I'm
4 assuming the ground field will probably be also tied
5 in with the collector circuit grounding. I may be
6 wrong, I'm not sure. I haven't seen their design on
7 it. But if this is traveling in the ground, most of
8 us who have done any work with the electrical, we
9 know that electricity will usually follow the path
10 of least resistance. If it follows the path of
11 least resistance and some of these collector
12 circuits are within a couple hundred feet or a
13 hundred feet from somebody's home and there is
14 buried cable in the ground going to their telephone
15 and that ground that that telephone cable has got
16 seems to provide a better grounding path than what
17 may be out there in the field, at that present time,
18 it may just well follow down that there ground
19 shield that's around the telephone cable. And, you
20 know, I don't think anybody wants that.

21 We've got farmers out here that are trying
22 to, shall we say, stay in business with dairy
23 operations. The term "stray voltage" is well known
24 amongst farmers in any operational size. The
25 mitigation for stray voltage gets very costly.

1 Somebody has to absorb the cost of it. And if you
2 don't, you've got cattle that probably get pretty
3 jumpy every time they stick their nose in a drinking
4 cup or go over to a water tank. It's a very strong
5 potential cows will reduce their milk output because
6 of lack of drinking and they soon will also --
7 possibility of aborting, and they probably won't
8 come back into estrus the way they should for
9 breeding purposes.

10 And little things like that, it just seems
11 like a -- something that needs to be addressed, you
12 know, so that this scenario doesn't happen in our
13 township. And communications is another thing that
14 is involved with these here collector circuits. You
15 look at our communications. I have had personal
16 contact with a telephone utility in southern
17 Minnesota, and they talked about the Lake Benton,
18 Minnesota area, the trouble they had out there with
19 noise -- trying to mitigate the noise problem that
20 developed. And I'm going to quote what they said,
21 "The magnetic fields coupled to the telephone
22 circuits and the longitudinal currents are induced
23 into the cable pairs. Some of this current is
24 converted to telephone circuit noise, noise that is
25 extremely difficult to mitigate." And I discussed

1 with the individual that was the expert involved in
2 helping this company mitigate this. He said that it
3 basically got down to one fix, and that was they had
4 to provide fiber optic to the premise to all the
5 customers in the area.

6 Well, this area up in here that is served
7 by Clear Lake Telephone and CenturyLink, the only
8 fiber optic that's in the ground goes to a few of
9 their fair game devices and from them it goes copper
10 to the customer. Like I said, I've worked in this
11 industry for 40 years and I'm well aware of the
12 potential for this to happen. And it's -- they said
13 it's a proven fact, they said that anytime these
14 parallel -- these collector circuits parallel to
15 telephone cables, they wind up with the induction if
16 it's over a half a mile. Short runs, probably not a
17 problem. Many other areas, if they go perpendicular
18 to the telephone cables, they haven't run into an
19 issue. But they said if you parallel them and it's
20 over a half mile and if you look at the -- well,
21 it's on the PSC website. There is a very
22 descriptive drawing showing these collector circuits
23 paralleling many of these telephone cables that are
24 buried in the ditch.

25 The telephone utilities had the

1 right-of-way previous. They followed all the rules
2 that the state mandated to bury these. I don't know
3 what they're going to do if they have to come back
4 after this thing is up and running. This could be
5 an issue, you know; we've got all this voltage in
6 the ground, now how do they go about burying it?
7 And they didn't explain how they covered the cost of
8 it out in Lake Benton, they said that was a sealed
9 document, that I have no idea who covers the cost.
10 I feel that it should not be thrust upon the
11 ratepayers in the country here because of the fact
12 that the company has to provide all of this here new
13 facility.

14 And cell phones aren't going to be a
15 usable commodity because an awful large part of this
16 geographic area in this community doesn't bode well
17 for cell service. You've got too many hills and
18 obstacles in the way, unless they put up a whole lot
19 more towers, there is not going to be good cell
20 service. And I don't think that's fair to the
21 people here to wipe out their ability to call 911,
22 call the sheriff's department, for whatever they
23 need and have absolutely no telephone service? I
24 think that's a -- would be a pretty costly thing to
25 shove down their throat.

1 And I guess last, but not least, talking
2 about communication. Exhibit 10 of the Town of
3 Forest testimony brings to light some very
4 disturbing evidence as far as I'm concerned
5 regarding communication or lack of between Highland
6 Wind/Emerging Energies and the previous town board.
7 It appears in my mind that there was very little
8 design information available to the town board
9 before the August 12th, 2010 agreement. It was not
10 presented to the plan commission adequately for them
11 to decide before that. Multiple e-mails were
12 exchanged between the attorney for the Town of
13 Forest and the attorney for Highland Wind discussing
14 the fact that there were no plans to review, and
15 some members of the town were -- there was one
16 member of the town board was very uncomfortable yet.
17 Their communications indicated that a conflict of
18 interest was real and of concern.

19 It appears to me that our previous town
20 board was not totally forthright with all of the
21 citizens of the Forest Township. The town's legal
22 guidance certainly appears to have aided in the
23 deception.

24 I'll conclude that if projects of this
25 nature are so good for the area and everyone living

1 around it, why is there so much secrecy and
2 deception involved? How can anyone trust this
3 company to be a good neighbor and look out for the
4 welfare of our community? I say this project should
5 be denied. Thank you for your time.

6 (Witness excused.)

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Let's get off the
8 record for a second.

9 (Discussion off the record.)

10 (Recess taken from 4:20 to 4:30 p.m.)

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Next person I have on
12 the list is Tim Lienau.

13 TIM LIENAU, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

14 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Spell your name for us.

15 MR. LIENAU: Lienau, L I E N A U, first
16 name Tim.

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. And you're
18 at North 1301 County Road Y, Menomonie?

19 MR. LIENAU: Yeah, southern Dunn County.

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Any
21 property that's affecting you or turbine location
22 you're concerned about?

23 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

24 BY MR. LIENAU: I have no connection to
25 Forest, Emerald or anyplace up in this neck of the

1 woods. I'm not connected to the industry in any
2 way, shape or form. I am, as you can see, pro
3 alternative energy; and I felt that I needed to
4 drive the 50 miles up here to make my peace. And I
5 normally don't do this and I'm a bit nervous in
6 regards to that, so please bear with me.

7 I really think that when we all wake up in
8 the morning and hit the alarm clock and turn on the
9 light, we have a shared responsibility. And that
10 shared responsibility is either -- for being able to
11 have a business and work and communicate and being
12 able to have what we want, what we need, in our
13 society; and that happens to be -- come with cost.
14 And sometimes that cost is fairly high. And I think
15 the folks that have a car and you put gas in it, the
16 responsibility is that we have to get the oil, we
17 have to pay the price to get the oil, we have to pay
18 the military to protect the oil and the routes to
19 get it here. And that cost is a shared
20 responsibility that we all have.

21 And the thing of it is, is that if a wind
22 farm in Forest, in Oklahoma, in Texas, in southern
23 Minnesota, if that will help us not have 200,000 men
24 in the Arabian Sea, not to have 50,000 men at Walter
25 Reed getting bits and pieces put back together

1 again, if that happens to be, you know, not ripping
2 the top off mountains in Appalachia or ripping the
3 tops of mountains off in Wyoming, well, you know,
4 maybe we gotta be looking at some of this stuff,
5 folks. I mean, we have a shared responsibility
6 because we all reach over and hit that switch. And
7 we hit it without even thinking, not even wondering,
8 we just hit that switch.

9 And the thing of it is, is that this part
10 of the mix -- coal's part of the mix, nuclear is
11 part of the mix. But my God, nuclear, are you guys
12 kidding me? We gotta watch it for 10,000 years,
13 10,000 years. Come on. I don't know. All I could
14 tell you is that granted there may be some issues
15 with how this was brought up and how it was sorted
16 out, I think there's things that probably could have
17 been done better or different, you know. There is
18 no question about it.

19 I don't know, I travel a little bit, I
20 travel down in Indiana, Illinois and seen these big
21 wind farms and, you know, just kind of in passing
22 with folks, stopping at the rest area, gas station,
23 I said, hey, you know, what's it like running around
24 with these things? They go, a little rough at
25 first, you get used to it. Just like railroad, just

1 like big industrial stuff. You know, sooner or
2 later you hear it and sooner or later you don't hear
3 it because it's just kind of the background noise.

4 It's just like when the interstate went
5 through. Boy, I'll tell you, people were whining
6 and crying about that, you know, 70 decibels, 80
7 decibels, it's a lot of noise. But sooner or later
8 it just is a background drone.

9 Is there a health effect? I don't know.
10 You know, you got something to say about it. And I
11 think that's something that needs to be addressed
12 and I think over time, these technical issues will
13 be dealt with, at least I hope they will, okay? And
14 I think it's something that needs to be addressed.
15 But I still think, folks, we have a shared
16 responsibility because if you're going to reach that
17 switch and hit 'er in the morning, it's got to come
18 from someplace. It's got to come from someplace.
19 Thank you for your time.

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right.

21 MR. LIENAU: But I am in support of it. I
22 think we gotta move there.

23 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Well, thank you,
24 sir.

25 MR. LIENAU: You bet.

1 (Witness excused.)

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Mark Tellijohn.

3 MARK TELLIOH, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Spell your name for us.

5 MR. TELLIOH: Mark T E L L I J O H N.

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: You're at 2030 280th
7 Street in Emerald?

8 MR. TELLIOH: Yes.

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Any other property or
10 tower location you're concerned about?

11 MR. TELLIOH: No. I'm not concerned.

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

13 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

14 BY MR. TELLIOH: My name is Mark
15 Tellijohn. I've lived in the Township of Forest my
16 entire life, 57 years. I own and operate a third
17 generation dairy farm with 400 head of dairy cattle.
18 I produce crop for feed and cash crop from
19 approximately 1,300 acres, all of the land which is
20 in the Town of Forest. I farm with -- my son and
21 nephew assist me in running the farm along with
22 other part-time and full-time employees.

23 My father grew up in the Township of
24 Forest and farmed his entire adult life here; and
25 through all those years of farming we've created

1 employment and formed a strong friendship with many
2 residents of the township. My son and I were
3 approached in the spring of 2008 by Emerging
4 Energies, after attending a couple of informational
5 meetings at the Forest Town Hall, they -- at Forest
6 Town Hall. At the meetings, they discussed the wind
7 turbines, the contracts, the size of the turbines,
8 which is going to be approximately 2, 2.5 megawatts;
9 the height of them were going to be approximately
10 the height of the telephone tower out here which was
11 485, 485 feet. They explained their goals and
12 provided us with contracts to review.

13 I began thoroughly researching the company
14 and began to learn more about wind turbines. I
15 hired my personal lawyer and took the information
16 and contract to him so he could assist in the
17 research of it. I also brought the information to
18 my bank, AgStar, to their legal department, and they
19 deal extensively in wind turbine projects out in
20 Minnesota. I questioned AgStar about any knowledge
21 they had on the company, you know, the fair rates of
22 reimbursements for this type of a contract. They
23 informed me that the company was reputable, the
24 reimbursement was very fair, and that the contract
25 was a standard type, boilerplated contract,

1 standardized to the industry. It sounded like a
2 very positive program for a farm. My lawyer also
3 provided the same positive information to me related
4 to the program and the company.

5 After months of thought and research, my
6 family and I began to believe the positive aspects
7 of the wind turbine project for the Town of Forest
8 far outweighed the negatives of the project. We
9 believe the tax relief it will bring to the Forest
10 Township and St. Croix County will benefit to all
11 taxpayers. We also believe in the employment
12 opportunities and money spent with the construction
13 and fuel and lodging will be a positive benefit for
14 all the area communities and business owners.

15 We also see many of our neighboring
16 farmers struggling to keep their farms profitable.
17 For most self-employed farmers, rising health costs,
18 fuel, feed, repairs, leave very little money left
19 for retirement plans. A majority of the farmers in
20 the township are in their 50s or older. The turbine
21 project may be a way for them to remain on their
22 land for a longer period of time and to be able to
23 have a little bit of a retirement, or maybe cash
24 crop their farm and be able to afford their health
25 insurance instead of leaving and selling their farms

1 in piece and -- bits and pieces for housing.

2 We also believe that wind turbines are
3 good for our nation, not just the Township of
4 Forest. Wind energy is clean and renewable and an
5 important way to provide for our nation's increasing
6 need for electrical energy. Wind energy as a
7 combination with other sources, as solar, natural
8 gas and coal, will decrease our dependence on other
9 nations and oil companies for their petroleum
10 products.

11 And in closing, I'd like to -- please keep
12 in this mind. People in society throughout history
13 are frightened of change. But to me, more
14 frightening is no change. Please let this project
15 be built in our township.

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thanks.

17 (Witness excused.)

18 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Now Lee
19 Tellijohn.

20 LEE TELLIOHN, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

21 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Spell your name for us.

22 MR. L. TELLIOHN: Lee, L E E, Tellijohn,
23 T E L L I J O H N.

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. It's 2034 280th
25 Street in Emerald?

1 MR. L. TELLIOH: Yep.

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And any other property
3 or location you're concerned about?

4 MR. L. TELLIOH: I'm a landowner, a
5 host.

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Just speak up a
7 little so she can hear you.

8 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

9 MR. L. TELLIOH: I'm Lee Tellioh. As
10 a resident of Forest, I'm a landowner of a proposed
11 wind turbine. I am in favor of this project because
12 I think it is a safe renewable energy source that
13 will diversify our energy resources. I have a
14 problem with the way our electrical system is set
15 up. It is based on having a small number of very
16 large electrical plants.

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Sir, can I ask you to
18 slow down. Thanks.

19 MR. L. TELLIOH: All right. I think
20 this is a bad idea for reliability and the national
21 security. So I am opposed that we have a larger
22 number of smaller power plants. Wind turbines will
23 make a step in the right direction.

24 I hear a lot of people in the room talk
25 about let's just burn coal, natural gas or nuclear.

1 So let's take a look at these sources. Natural gas
2 for one makes me smile. To get natural gas you have
3 to frac. To frac, you need to have sand. Where is
4 the sand? The sand is here. These are the same
5 people when a proposed sand mine was proposed in
6 Glenwood City, they were the first people to run
7 down to help the City of Glenwood City stop the
8 proposed sand mines because it pollutes the
9 groundwater and the silica dust will kill us. So I
10 guess we cannot burn natural gas.

11 So let's go with coal. We all know coal
12 is much cleaner and a much safer mining practice.
13 So safe as I propose that we open a coal mine in the
14 Town of Forest if coal was here. I'm sure everyone
15 in the room would be jumping for joy if we could
16 open a coal mine here in the Town of Forest, so long
17 as it's not in somebody else's backyard. It's
18 not -- a great idea as long as it's not (sic) in
19 somebody else's backyard.

20 So let's go for nuclear. All right. I
21 will donate the land for the -- that I own in the
22 Town of Forest to dispose of the nuclear waste. I'm
23 sure no one in the room will have a problem with it.
24 It is a great idea to use nuclear as long as it is
25 in somebody else's backyard.

1 Please support this wind project.

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, sir.

3 (Witness excused.)

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Doris Schmidt.

5 DORIS SCHMIDT, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Spell your last name
7 for us.

8 MS. SCHMIDT: Schmidt, S C H M I D T.

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. I have 2168
10 County Road P in Clear Lake.

11 MS. SCHMIDT: That is correct.

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. And any
13 other property or turbine location you want to point
14 out?

15 MS. SCHMIDT: I have five that are going
16 to be near my property.

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Your location of
18 your --

19 MS. SCHMIDT: I'm on County Road P.

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

21 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

22 BY MS. SCHMIDT: Okay. I have lived in
23 Forest Township most of my life. My husband and I
24 own a 167-acre farm in Forest Township. We never --
25 we were never once notified by Highland Wind or our

1 former town board that there was an industrial wind
2 farm being proposed in our township prior to the
3 former town board signing agreements with Highland
4 Wind. We've seen no public outreach regarding this
5 project.

6 I was pretty shocked when a postcard
7 postage paid for by the township came from one of
8 the hosting landowners inviting us to take a bus
9 trip to the Shirley project. Most of the residents
10 in the township knew nothing about the Shirley
11 project or what they were referring to. We later
12 found out that the former town board had entered
13 into an agreement to install 39 500-foot-tall
14 industrial wind turbines all around us. Most of us
15 were in shock.

16 First of all, our comprehensive plan in
17 our township clearly states no new large scale
18 businesses or industry is desired in the Town of
19 Forest unless it is located in the designated area,
20 in the hamlet of Forest or along State Highway 64.
21 All agreements with Highland Wind/Emerging Energies
22 are rescinded by the Township of Forest. Currently
23 it is my understanding that Highland Wind has no
24 agreement of any kind with the Township of Forest.

25 Highland Wind increased their project

1 to -- that they were proposing to 41 500-foot
2 turbines and is wanting the PSC to take all control
3 away from our local officials who were
4 overwhelmingly voted into office in the last
5 elections by the residents of Forest Township. The
6 placement of 41 500-foot-tall industrial wind
7 turbines in our quiet rural community will destroy
8 everything that brought everyone to this community
9 in the first place, by exposing residents to many
10 health problems, shadow flicker, noise annoyances,
11 visual changes, stray voltage issues, devaluation of
12 property and destruction of our township roads.

13 With all the complaints of health problems
14 coming from people who lived in the last project
15 this developer built, several people telling that
16 they have been driven from their home or sleeping in
17 basements to try to get some sleep, they have told
18 us and it is documented on the PSC dockets that they
19 have had major health problems since the turbines
20 started in their area.

21 In 2012, the Brown County Board of Health
22 resolution made a formal request for temporary
23 emergency financial relocation assistance for the
24 State of Wisconsin -- from the State of Wisconsin
25 for those Brown County families that are suffering

1 adverse health effects and undue hardships caused by
2 irresponsible placement of industrial wind turbines
3 around homes and property.

4 I have an inner ear problem which
5 causes -- I gotta find my place. I have an inner
6 ear problem that causes me extreme difficulty with
7 balance, even walking. I have it under control
8 right now with treatment. With the possibility of
9 five turbines in proximity of where I live, and if
10 they were to install the alternate turbine across
11 the road from my home and I had shadow flicker going
12 over my property inside my home flickering on and
13 off, I would not be able to function. How would I
14 work on my farm and work on my job?

15 I feel it is so wrong to have blades
16 turning and spreading shadow flicker over
17 neighboring properties. If anyone knows in their
18 heart that they are hurting their neighbor in any
19 way, especially exposing them to health problems,
20 ice throw, noise, taking away their ability to get a
21 good night sleep, devaluating their property, in my
22 mind it's just plain wrong.

23 Everyone in this township has a right to
24 protect their well-being. You cannot trade that for
25 monetary gain. These industrial machines do not

1 belong in close proximity to homes. We raise Angus
2 beef cattle on our farm. Cattle are very sensitive
3 to noise and disturbance. I am so worried about all
4 animals and wildlife. They will be terrified with
5 all the noise and shadow flicker. This will affect
6 their health and ability to reproduce.

7 These animals and all the residents could
8 be exposed to electrical pollution. The killing of
9 our birds, eagles, bats, by these giant blades is
10 not accepted by the residents of Forest Township.
11 They eat the insects keeping our families -- our
12 fields from being infested. Each has a purpose in
13 God's plan. Aren't we all their protectors also?

14 If this project was approved, I am
15 concerned when it comes time to decommission 41
16 500-foot wind turbines that Highland Wind has not
17 even come close to offering Forest Township enough
18 money to dismantle these. No one in the township
19 wants to be left with a turbine junkyard with blades
20 hanging half off and the look of desolation
21 throughout our township. Our wind ordinance clearly
22 states that if the developer -- okay. Our wind
23 ordinance states that it will be the landowner's
24 responsibility to take them down if the developer
25 does not. It will cost millions of dollars in cost

1 to hosting landowners, more than their property is
2 worth.

3 Along with farming, I have been selling
4 real estate in St. Croix County -- or St. Croix,
5 Dunn, Poke and Barron Counties for almost 12 years.
6 My fear is that anyone wanting to sell their
7 property after turbines would be built in the
8 township may have a much harder time to obtain a
9 buyer in an industrial wind area. With so many
10 properties on the market, I fear buyers will not
11 choose to live near 41 500-foot-tall wind turbines
12 with all the noise and shadow flicker and possible
13 health problems.

14 Financial gain to the developer and
15 hosting landowners should not be at the expense of
16 the neighboring property owners. I think the
17 nonparticipating landowners should be offered some
18 type of property value guaranty by the developer.
19 This should be mandatory for any approval of a
20 project like this.

21 I want to make it very clear, I support
22 clean energy. I am opposed to irresponsible
23 placement of industrial size wind turbines being
24 placed too close to homes in any small community
25 that places over 600 residents at risk. Please do

1 not approve this project in Forest Township. Thank
2 you very much.

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you.

4 (Witness excused.)

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: David Schmidt. How did
6 you get on the bottom of the pile?

7 MR. SCHMIDT: I don't know.

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Sorry about that.

9 DAVID SCHMIDT, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. And please
11 spell your name for the record.

12 MR. SCHMIDT: S C H M I D T.

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: At 2168 County Road P,
14 Clear Lake?

15 MR. SCHMIDT: Right, you got it.

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And any other property
17 that you're concerned about or turbine?

18 MR. SCHMIDT: The same five that she had.

19 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

20 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

21 BY MR. SCHMIDT: Well, I lived in Forest
22 Township for over 40 years. At one of our first
23 meetings that we had after we were -- you know, we
24 found out about this, we were up in our -- up in the
25 community center up in Clear Lake and one of the

1 host families stood up and was -- and she asked --
2 what she asked, she asked the developer what do the
3 neighbors think about putting these turbines up?
4 And he -- they said all the neighbors were on board
5 with this. And we all know that was clearly a lie.
6 Because the neighbors did not know. That's why we
7 started this here Forest Voice.

8 Okay. Highland Wind developers wanting to
9 install 41 of these turbines in the Township of
10 Forest, they also installed eight turbines in the
11 Brown County which is a different project. After
12 the turbines started, many residents came forward
13 with many health and safety issues: headaches,
14 unable to sleep, migraines, anxiety, dizziness,
15 animals dying, possibly due to stray voltage.

16 The developer had -- the developer had an
17 interview on public radio. And the caller called in
18 and asked them what are they going to do to address
19 these issues? And he said they're no longer
20 involved because they sold the project.

21 We have been told residents that called a
22 designated number for the compliance, no one
23 answered the calls, to call back. Why would we give
24 this developer a chance to devastate another
25 community? If they had all these health issues with

1 eight turbines, how many residents are going to
2 suffer with 41 turbines in our township? Please do
3 not approve this project in the Forest Township.

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thanks very
5 much.

6 (Witness excused.)

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Janet Monson.

8 JANET MONSON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. And that's
10 M O N S O N?

11 MS. MONSON: Correct.

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: 6414 County Road Q,
13 Clear Lake?

14 MS. MONSON: It's 2614 County Road Q.

15 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And any other
16 properties or turbine locations you want to point
17 out?

18 MS. MONSON: Well, there will be a
19 turbine, probably the closest, a little over a mile
20 away. But my main concern and my husband's is the
21 electrical -- proposed electrical substation which
22 will be just to our west and also the routing of all
23 the electric will go directly in front of our home.

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Great. Go
25 ahead.

DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

BY MS. MONSON: Okay. My name is Janet Munson. I have been a resident of Forest Township for the past 26 years. We have built our home and raised our family in this beautiful community that we love. I am here today to try to save our homes and our community from being taken over by the wind company -- industrial wind company known as Highland Wind, LLC/Emerging Energies. 41 500-foot high industrial wind turbines do not belong in our 36-square-mile, densely populated, pristine, quiet, rural community.

I have the same concerns as many of the people here today, including health issues, safety, wildlife, property values, quality of life, and much more. But my issue from the very beginning has been the process that led us here in the first place. I always thought that this country was based on democracy. We grew up pledging liberty and justice for all. But where is the justice in all of this? We trusted our elected officials, which have a moral and an ethical obligation to do what is right and fair for each and every citizen of this township.

An issue of this magnitude should have been put to a public vote for all of the residents

1 of Forest. Had we been given that opportunity, I
2 strongly believe we would not be in all of the
3 turmoil that we are facing today.

4 Our community has been torn apart. It's
5 pitted friend against friend, neighbor against
6 neighbor, and family members against one another.
7 This once friendly, caring, down-to-earth township
8 has been torn apart all in the name of big subsidy
9 dollars and greed. If this project moves forward,
10 it will forever change the life that we all know and
11 love. It will not only affect residents of this
12 community, but also the lives of surrounding
13 communities, as well as the hopes and dreams of
14 future generations to come. Our life, liberty and
15 pursuit of happiness will be stripped away in the
16 blink of an eye. Or should I say gone with the
17 wind.

18 I ask you again, where is the justice in
19 any of this? And I'm asking the PSC to please deny
20 this proposal.

21 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you very much.

22 MS. MONSON: You're welcome.

23 (Witness excused.)

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Elden Setter.
25 Not available. Okay. Roxanne Anderson, A N D E R-

1 S O N.

2 MS. ANDERSON: Yes.

3 ROXANNE ANDERSON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: You're at 2916 210th
5 Avenue, Emerald?

6 MS. ANDERSON: Correct.

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Any other properties or
8 turbine locations you want to point out?

9 MS. ANDERSON: Well, I have one, it's
10 six-tenths of a mile from me, plus surrounding, all
11 around, every side of me.

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay.

13 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

14 BY MS. ANDERSON: My name is Roxie
15 Anderson. I resided in the Town of Forest all my
16 life. I too grew up on a family farm of 114 years,
17 the place we still call home which my mother still
18 lives. I worry, too, what -- if she is not able to
19 handle the sound and the other effects of the
20 turbines, does she just leave the home she loves
21 because of irresponsible wind siting? Who will buy
22 the family farm except for possibly a hosting
23 landowner, and that will never happen.

24 I have grandchildren that come to my home
25 often, one with mild cerebral palsy. Will they be

1 affected by the turbines? My husband has recently
2 had a heart attack. How could it affect him? We
3 don't want to be guinea pigs for another wind
4 project.

5 My father recently passed away. He was a
6 very respected man of the township, hard working,
7 caring, and loving man. And he would never go out
8 to harm anyone. Never could he imagine he would
9 have to see the turmoil that this has brought to the
10 neighborhood, the church, and our community of
11 Forest in the past few years. He was dreading the
12 thought of Emerging Energies coming into this town
13 he loved and tear up the land. I will not be able
14 to totally put him to rest until I can go to his
15 grave and tell him this wind project will not
16 happen.

17 The State of Wisconsin PSC should deny
18 this wind project because of the potential health to
19 the many in the state that it already -- that the
20 people are already suffering. And no one seems to
21 care about them. That's it.

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thanks very much.

23 (Witness excused.)

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Roger Anderson. And I
25 just want everyone to know, I have Mr. Anderson and

1 then Mr. Voeltz --

2 FROM THE AUDIENCE: Voeltz.

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Voeltz, okay.

4 ROGER ANDERSON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: And so you're at the
6 same address as Roxanne. Any other properties or
7 turbine locations you want to point out?

8 MR. ANDERSON: Same locations my wife just
9 spoke of.

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Go ahead.

11 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

12 BY MR. ANDERSON: Okay. My name is Roger
13 Anderson. I have been in the community 37 years.
14 As my wife said, she's been here 50-some years. My
15 feeling is it should be up to the people that live
16 in the Town of Forest to decide if there should be
17 41 or more 500-foot turbines here, not the PSC who
18 will not have to live by them. How many of the PSC
19 members live within 1,250 feet of a 500-foot
20 turbine? I'm not sure many, if any.

21 The PSC is taking the advice of the Wind
22 Siting Council that is heavily stacked with pro-wind
23 advisors, some of which have financial gains to be
24 made, which is very much a conflict of interest.
25 How many of these hosting families would support

1 this project if it wasn't for the money?

2 As you can probably tell from my comments,
3 we are 100 percent against an industrial wind farm
4 in our small rural town. Thank you.

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thanks very
6 much.

7 (Witness excused.)

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Mr. Voeltz.

9 SCOTT VOELTZ, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. And that's V O-
11 E L T Z, right?

12 MR. VOELTZ: Yep.

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: 2670 Highway 64,
14 Emerald?

15 MR. VOELTZ: Yep.

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Great. So
17 give us your opinion on the case.

18 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

19 BY MR. VOELTZ: It's a bunch of BS, this
20 whole thing. I mean, I've lived here for -- the
21 family moved out here in the '70s, and now I raise
22 my own family here. I mean, I tell people it's
23 God's country out here, it's beautiful, you know.
24 Now a select few want to ruin it for everybody.

25 So my main concern is I have an autistic

1 son, and this is like the worse thing for him, you
2 know. Certain sounds, violations, lights, I mean, I
3 can go on and on, I mean, this is going to be very
4 bad for him. And for them to bring this in here,
5 it's going to totally tear up my family's life. I
6 mean, I built a nice place over there, lived there
7 to retire and stay here. And now a select few want
8 to screw it up and they expect me to move? That's
9 BS. I mean, I don't want to move. I mean, it
10 should not affect the rest of us. You know, you go
11 out west, you see these things. Yeah, they're great
12 out there; but where is the nearest house? It's
13 miles away. It has nothing to do with it. So why
14 should they come in here and ruin everything for us?

15 You know, I have a lot more to say, I'm
16 trying -- I'm doing my darnedest to keep it clean
17 because I'd really like to go off on it, but --

18 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I appreciate that.

19 MR. VOELTZ: For anybody that knows me,
20 so... But I mean, just, please, this can't go
21 through. I mean, you heard the people's testimonies
22 for their health and stuff. Sure, everybody is
23 different. But like my son, I mean, he can -- you
24 know why your dog howls when there is a siren way
25 off? I mean, I don't hear it. He starts rubbing

1 his ears, and you know, he can't talk and he's not
2 potty trained, he can't tell us if something is
3 bugging him. But he'll still rub his ears and go
4 into a rage, so obviously he can hear that. So what
5 do you think a 500-foot tower is going to affect --
6 you know, is going to do to him? That's why this
7 stuff cannot happen. It's got to be stopped.

8 There's so much BS behind the lines to
9 even get to this point, it never should have gotten
10 this far. Never. So I just -- I mean, I don't know
11 what else to say. I just hope that the right people
12 are listening to make sure that this stuff does not
13 go through. So...

14 I mean, that's about all. I mean, I can
15 go on and on for a bunch of statistics and stuff;
16 but I'm not in the mood for it. It just can't
17 happen. It's got to stop. So, thank you.

18 EXAMINER NEWMARK: I appreciate your
19 comments.

20 (Witness excused.)

21 EXAMINER NEWMARK: That was the last form
22 I had. Does anyone else want to speak?

23 Okay. We will be back at 6. So you can
24 stick around if you get a chance. But we'll be
25 taking new people who haven't spoken yet. We'll

1 reconvene at 6 p.m. Thanks very much.
2 (The hearing concluded at 5:06 p.m.)
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1 STATE OF WISCONSIN)

2 MILWAUKEE COUNTY)

3

4 I, LYNN M. BAYER, RMR, Certificate of Merit
5 Reporter with the firm of Gramann Reporting Company, 710
6 North Plankinton, Suite 710, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, do
7 hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings,
8 and that the same is true and correct in accordance with
9 my original machine shorthand notes.

10 DATED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2012.

11

12

13

14 _____
Lynn M. Bayer

15 Certificate of Merit Reporter

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22 E X H I B I T S

23 NUMBER DESCRIPTION MARKED ADMITTED
24 (NO EXHIBITS MARKED OR ADMITTED)

25